THE MAGAZINE FOR HALLOWEENERS AND INBETWEENERS
DragZINE
#10
1997
VAGINAL DAVIS
Speaking from the Diaphragm
The Lady Chablis
Alexis Del Lago
Thom Collins
Sheila Noiya
DeAundra Peek
Wigstock West
AND MORE...
Head for the Heels Issue
$5.95 usa ($6.95 CAN)
74
7 81538 83829 6

$29.95

Jim Bailey, Won't You Please Come Home... Video!

Internationally acclaimed performer Jim Bailey has assembled dozens of clips from his concerts, television specials and guest appearances for an hour's worth of pure entertainment! In a Jim Bailey video, you'd expect spellbinding illusions of Judy and Barbra, but get ready to be surprised. Jim has included gems from many of the guest spots he's done on Night Court, Here's Lucy, The Tonight Show and more! It's a collection that'll win over any newcomer and please any fan!

"Jim Bailey is the supreme, consummate performer and master of his own inimitable presentations. His performances are overwhelming!"
—New York Times

"...a startlingly evocative experience"
—LA Times

Send check or money order to: Dragazine P.O. Box 461795 West Hollywood, CA 90046 $29.95. (US Funds Only)
(Calif. Residents add 8.25% sales tax) Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. No credit card orders accepted.

Two Video Offers *You Can't Refuse!*

Heterosexual Crossdressing?

Now Available on Home Video

"All Dressed Up and No Place to Go," the acclaimed documentary seen on Cinemax and at the Montreal Film Festival. Meet the men who live in two worlds. They're straight with conventional lives, but they've got to have their heels.

"An evenhanded look profiling four men who unabashedly and often humorously discuss an unbelievable compulsion. The supportive women in their lives are just as fascinating."
—USA Today

"A candid excursion into the world of heterosexual crossdressing."
—San Francisco Chronicle

$39.95

Call us for further details at 212-353-0500, or simply send $39.95 in check or money order to Cajun Films, 36 East 20th Street New York, NY 10003

Edie Torial Message

If you're a Drag enthusiast or just a tourist (and who isn't one or the other?), DRAGAZINE invites you to dish with us! For those of you who are into "recreational transvestism," to others who are on the edge of the Gender Bell Curve, DRAGAZINE is for you! It's a Whole 'Nother World!

XO

Lois Commondenominator

Inside

DRAGAZINE

No. 10 1997 Published Once or Twice A Year, Since 1991

DRAGAZINE
P.O. Box 461795, West Hollywood, CA 90046
(213) 851-5279

Dedicated to Craig Seely a/k/a Les Stevens

PUBLISHER, EDITRIX, HEAD DRAG QUEEN
Lois Commondenominator

ART DIRECTION
Michael Anton

ASSOCIATE EDITRIX
Vaginal Davis

ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITRIX
Ron Meyers a/k/a Lucia Porcini

RECEPTIONIST, OFFICE PERSON, TYPESETTER
Sybil Disobedience

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Joe E. Jeffreys
Daniel Gri
Mark Davis
Sister Roma
Lindsey Cochran
Gilda Fatale
Alexis Pittman
Patrick Rush
Ira Schlessinger
Anthony Bellov
Lawrence Frommer
DeAundra Peek
Nora Burns
Robert Sanford
Brian Cotton
Jeff Sumner
The "Lady" Bunny

ILLUSTRATIONS
Pagan Holiday

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Richard Armas
Rita Barros
Rick Castro
Claire at Girls Like Us
Tony DeBone
Terry Gaskins
Efrain Gonzalez
Stacy Osugi
Pacon Photography
Peter Paladino
Jeff Palmer
Katja Perry
Philabooboo
Harold Ramsey
Irene Vilar
Timothy White

CARTOONS
Earl W. Engleman

MEDIA NOTES

Beverly Hills (Adjacent) Hustlers....4
God Shave the Queen....4
His Majesty, the Queen....6
Tom of Dragland!....6
Artist Miguel Angel Reyes....7
Ten Things You Won't Hear....7
DRAGAZINE's Name Game....7
Joan Crawford's Sudden Fear....32

BEEN THERE

Ballets de Loony....6
Sugar Shack....36
What's Beauty Got to Do With It?....38
Shopping L.A.'s Garment District....43
Wigstock West....44

DONE THAT

DeAundra Peek....8
Drag Kings....16
Honey West....22
Mavis Davis....24
Alexis Del Lago....26
Pam Teflon....28
The Linguine Sisters....30
Carmella Marcella Garcia....31
Sheila Noiya....40

10

VAGINAL DAVIS
Gives Vaginal Delivery
Internationally Acclaimed Blacktress speaks from the Diaphragm.

18

THOM COLLINS
Stirred, Not Shaken
Beefcake model shuns tool belts for tulle that's belted.

20

THE LADY CHABLIS
It's Been a Vintage Year
Celebrity Performer hides her Candy & is the Toast of Savannah

About our fierce ruling cover photo... The ginormously talented Vaginal Davis captured by his super photographer & guy pal Rick Castro. Hair, makeup & wardrobe by Michele Mills.

Copyright 1997. DRAGAZINE (ISSN 1077-8233). So many people to thank again! Besides all of the above, there's Barry & Karen from Circus of Books, Richard Settles at Genre, Mike & Jeri Lee at Centurian, Patti and Fred at HBO, all the subscribers that buy and newsstands that carry DRAGAZINE and everyone else I forgot to mention! DRAGAZINE is by Drag queens, so don't expect it more than once or twice a year (at most) while we dry our nails. Send $5.95 for whatever the current issue is (it might still be this one!). For wholesale inquiries, please contact your local magazine distributor or Centurian Distributing at 702-322-9238. DRAGAZINE is designed to appeal to those that enjoy the art of cross-dressing as the audience or the participants, either of which might be you or the Drag Queen who is your child 1st grade teacher. DRAGAZINE is mailed in a plain wrapper with a return address of D.Z.D.Q.

ISSN 3067-1302 (online) ISBN 979-8-9927430-0-5

Media Notes

1996 — THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Lois Commondenominator

IT WAS THE BEST OF DRAG, IT WAS THE WORST OF DRAG!

MOVIES

I'm such a fan of ***Kids in the Hall*** that I went to the opening day of their movie ***Brain Candy.*** Although it had many Drag turns similar to their television show, it didn't translate well onto the big screen. While I was watching it, I could tell it didn't have mass appeal. Apparently, the folks who made the remake of ***La Cage*** knew the correct formula for a successful Drag-inspired movie. Other Drag in the movies included ***Kingpin,*** **Stephen Dorff** as **Candy Darling** in ***I Shot Andy Warhol, Stonewall,*** and ***The Associate.*** Drag-inspired ***Scream Teen Scream*** was voted the audience favorite at **1996 Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.** Also premiering at **Outfest '96** was Drag Shamaness **Eartha Madre's** music video, and yours truly **Lois Commondenominator** appeared briefly in the short ***Get That Girl***! Speaking of Drag in the movies, did anyone notice that ***Mars Attacks*** included an alien dressed in Drag who tried to kill the President of the United States? Actor **Isaiah Washington** complained in ***Essence Magazine*** that he was sick and tired of being offered Drag Queen roles - five in less than a year! Too bad, because there's enough of a market for Drag to show up at mass merchandiser Best Buy with ***The Rocky Horror Picture Show*** for $11.99. Mail-order house **Wolfe Video** designated a *Queen's Corner* with bargain Drag videos for discerning mail-order customers! For those vintage Drag collectors out there, get on subscriber **Laurie Ann's** mailing list who sent DRAGAZINE the classic video ***She Man.*** I'm sure this is where **John Waters** got his inspiration!

BOOKS

Over the years, DRAGAZINE has been sent books and CDs for review just like we were a big magazine. Shush! Don't tell all those publicity departments just how small DRAGAZINE really is! Congratulations to **Julian Fleisher** for writing ***The Drag Queens of New York, An Illustrated Field Guide.*** It profiles the current crop of New York's best-known queens. For those of you looking for a coffee-table book, insightful biographies accompanied **Panja Jurgens** sepia-toned photos reproduced in ***They Call***

the RUBBER PARTS

HOLLY DOES PORN

Holly Woodlawn has been captured on film again! We hope you didn't miss Holly's wonderful interview in DRAGAZINE #9 by Gino Colbert! She tells all about her life, her own struggle to get her book, ***A Low Life In High Heels,*** to the screen, about fast times being a Warhol girlette and more. This time she's cast as a *pornery* old street sage in BIG Video's *sin*sational ***Beverly Hills Hustlers***. Holly gooses a new guy on the block and predicts he'll go far. But he'll also need her *Five Sacred Rules of Hustling* that she's learned over the years. The presence of Holly Woodlawn is not the reason to buy or rent this movie, however she did get an award nomination in the category of Best Non-Sexual role from ***Adult Video News*** Magazine. The rest of the video is quite hot and well worth whatever price they're asking! Holly's role is one of those great small parts in a very XXX rated adult gay video. Call 1-800-359-0329 to order your copy of ***Beverly Hills Hustlers*** today!

GOD SHAVE THE QUEEN!

God Shave The Queen! is a collection of ten songs performed by a diverse group of Drag Queens, including well-known performers such as The "Lady" Bunny, Lily of the Valley, Ebony Jett, Varla Jean Merman, Joey Arias, Raven-O, Sherry Vine and Pussy Tourette. My Inner Drag Queen resonated like a plucked string whenever a falsetto, lisp or operatic trill eminated from my speakers. Some of the girls sing well, and some — well, sing. They sing acid jazz, alterna-pop, torch, dance and retro-disco. If there's a message in the mix of dif-

Themselves Queens. According to **Boze Hadleigh** who wrote *Bette Davis Speaks*, **Bette** is the all-time number-one favorite celebrity for female impersonators to impersonate. **Columbia University Press** published *An Evening At The Garden of Allah*, about early Drag culture, and **The Lady Chablis** wrote her autobiography *Hiding My Candy.* Read about her later in this issue. On the lighter side, **David Croland** created a cute *Drag Dolls* cut out book, and **Phyllis Burke** explored gender issues in *Gender Shock*, as did **Leslie Feinberg** with her *Transgender Warriors.* Publishing ran the gamut from the sublime to the campy, like *The 1996 Tranny Guide* published in the U.K., while Honey Van Campe published *The Drag Queen's Cook Book & Guide to Sensible Living. The Tranny Guide* is so complete it even printed a picture of me! Ms. Van Campe's promotional team worked overtime supplying bumper stickers and posters!

PLAYS

Paul Anelli as **Joan Crawford** and **Matthew Martin** as **Bette Davis** collided hilariously in *Christmas With The Crawfords*, which enjoyed its fifth smash seasonal season. DRAGAZINE'S Issue No. 9 covermodel **Jackie Beat** played **Helen Lawson** in *Valley of the Dolls* off Broadway. Hey Jackie, I still have the tape of *Good Morning America* where they interviewed you and the rest of the cast! The lively Drag soap opera *Plush Life* kept going and going and going in Silverlake, while in Hollywood, Drag-Tupperware salesperson **Jeff Sumner** performed in his play *Pam Teflon, My Life In Plastic.* Thank you **Eartha Madre** for getting us tickets to see **John Kelly** playing **Joni Mitchell** in *Paved Paradise* at **Highways**! I loved it when **John** as **Joni** sang **CSN's** *Back to the Garden* at Wigstock West! **The Zephyr** on Melrose here in West Hollywood featured **Tom Morris** starring in **Roberto Athayde's** *Miss Margarida's Way*, directed by **Bill Pullman,** while out in the Valley at the **El Portal Theater, José Sarria (a/k/a the Widow Norton)** did a play reading of **Joseph Castel's** *The Black Cat,* the story of the pre-Stonewall club where **José** used to perform. Up in San Francisco, **Michael McQuary** played **Norma Desmond** in *Sunset Salome.*

CLUBS

Dragville succeeded Tuesdays at West Hollywood's **Love Lounge,** while **Patryk Shooting Star's** *Follywood* opened and closed at **The Comedy Store**. **Robin Tyler's** *Comedy Store Gender Bender Review* bought big ads, then closed before it even opened.

FESTIVALS

West Hollywood's Halloween Carnival was ruined by the presence of too many lookiloos, while **The Castro Street Halloween Festival** was canceled due to over-popularity. **The Annual Drag Invasion** continued at the **Pines on Fire Island** and **Wigstock West** was a big success, but **Wigstock** itself got cancelled. Something called **Wignot** was held as a last-minute replacement.

FOOD

Lucky Cheng's continued featuring Drag waitresses in New York. A new restaurant in New York opened called **Lips** also featured Drag waitresses, while Drag Queens served dinner at West L.A.'s **Trilogy** and Hollywood's **Tommy Tang's**.

PUBLISHING

4-Front magazine declared "there are too many Drag Queens" in publish-

Continued on page 32

the RUBBER PARTS the RUBBER PARTS

ferent styles, it's that Drag Queens are as diverse as any other group when it comes to expressing themselves. These tracks include vocalizations that are cool, sultry, plaintive, seductive, operatic, bawdy, masochistic, pessimistic, ironic, silly, lilting, synth-driven, and even a little Mrs. Miller-esque. DRAGAZINE'S readers have been offered a specially discounted price for the CD of $12, which includes postage and handling. Send your money order to Swoon Records, 420 W. 24th St., Suite #1EE, New York, NY 10011, and tell them you saw it in DRAGAZINE!

TRANNY HANGOUTS

TrannyGuide '97 is truly the world's best international listings guide for cross-dressers and their friends. You would expect it would have stuff about the United Kingdom (where it's published), Canada and the United States, natch. But it also has listings for Africa, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Caribbean, Chile, Columbia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and Uruguay. It lists hundreds of shopping opportunities, services, places to go, reviews of books and magazines and articles on "the life." It's absolutely amazing how complete it is. (And I'm not just saying that because it has an ad for DRAGAZINE in it). But don't just take it from me! The editors **Caroline Eggerton** and **Vicky Lee** are brimming with excitement at all the changes and updates to *TrannyGuide '97*. Check out their Web address at *www.wayout.co.uk/*. Send $20 in travelers checks or order using VISA from The WayOut Publishing Co, P.O. Box 70, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 2AE, England. It's *gear*!

Media Notes

IN FOCUS

TUTU MUCH
Les Grands Ballets de Loony
Interview with Marcus Galante, Artistic Director

Les Grands Ballets de Loony is a comedic ballet company with their tongues firmly planted in their cross-dressed cheeks. According to Marcus Galante, artistic director, an evening with the Loonies is filled with music and laughter. Looking over the press materials, I couldn't help comparing what I saw to the better-known Ballet Trocadero de Monte Carlo. Not surprisingly, Marcus told us that he had been associated with the Trocs in the past. In order to clear up any confusion, he sent some photos and gave DRAGAZINE *an exclusive phone interview to tell the Loony story. Here's what he had to say, direct from the dying swan's mouth as it were.*

First and foremost, Les Grands Ballets de Loony is a parody and it's very funny. This show is enjoyable for everybody. You don't have to be Gay or a Drag Queen to get it. The Ballet Trocadero de Monte Carlo is more about being real, wanting to be like a woman and be fabulous. The Loonies would like to be fabulous too, but we use more comedic content. Ours is a show. We are also non-discriminatory. There are female as well as male Loonies.

Secondly, we strive for high production values plus the highest level of performance and technical dance at the choreographic level. Everything we do is very well thought out in advance and staged. Although this is a show about comedy, I don't want people falling all over the place who actually cannot dance. The individual personality of the performer can work within that structure to take their role further.

Thirdly, everything is very obvious as to what it is; ballet is just like sign language. What they would have been tittilated by in the 19th century wouldn't register today, but there's still some basics that have carried over. Most people can understand the gesture where a ballet artist would roll his or her arms over their heads signalling the question of "Do you want to dance?" A hand on the heart means "I love you." If you point to the ring finger, it means "I want to marry you."

One thing that doesn't carry over from the past is that in the 19th century, one would stay in a theater for six hours to watch a ballet, whereas today, you're lucky if you can get the public to stay for

the RUBBER PARTS

PACON PHOTOGRAPHY

HIS MAJESTY, THE QUEEN

Superstar female impersonator **Frank Marino** has co-authored a part-autobiography-part how-to manual entitled ***His Magesty, The Queen.*** For those of you who don't know him, **Frank** has been a frequent guest on many a talk show due to his professional impersonation of **Joan Rivers**. "He does me better than I do," quipped **Joan** for the book's dust cover. **Frank** said this book took more than a year's worth of work. He wrote after nights of performing, and there were many nights that stretched well into the wee hours. The book bills **Frank** as *The World's Most Famous Female Impersonator*, so Move Over, **RuPaul**! Complain if this book is not available at your local bookstore! Better yet, send a check or money order for $22 plus $3 postage to Frank Marino Enterprises, 8524 W. Sahara, Suite 236, Las Vegas, NV 89117, or call 702-363-5768. Also, we have a special offer to DRAGAZINE readers! If you'd like a special keepsake of Frank Marino's performance, there's an audio version now available! It's the new comedy CD ***Gay From Las Vegas*** featuring **Frank** and four other talented Gay comedians, and it's available for the total of $15.98 (CA Residents add 8.25% sales tax). Send check or money order to Uproar Entertainment, 3663 Twin Lake Ridge, West Lake Village, CA 91361.

***MISS* TOM OF FINLAND?**

The name **Tom of Finland** is well-known to Gay erotic art collectors as the man who created exquisitely executed drawings of supermasculine Gay fetish fantasies. Besides man-to-man sex, **Tom's** art includes uniforms and leather. Well, the list can now include Drag! Drag is not usually associated

a half hour before they get bored.

I decided to draw material from the old days because they did everything back then. And 40, 50 or even 100 years later, those old shows and ballets are still fabulous! We take the old style theatricality and go one step beyond. When our ballerinas gleam and flash, it's probably because her bloody feet are killing her!

In ballet, the woman is feminine and wears pretty costumes, and the man is usually princely and aggressive. The woman is always on *pointe*, on her toes, while the man is never on *pointe* except in very rare occasions. Being on *pointe* is a woman's art. It's a very light-looking, quick way of moving. It makes it look like the ballerina is so elevated that she's almost flying. This was not a sexist construct, rather things were parcelled out between women and men in ballet because of their physical characteristics. Men jump higher and turn faster. There are some men who are exceptions and are spectacular at dancing as a woman. In our ballet, we're not trying to do what a female ballerina would do. I don't think it's possible. There's a step called *fuetté*, where a woman will fling her leg to the

Continued on page 33

Gilda Fatale's Top Ten Things You Won't Hear Backstage at a Drag Beauty Pageant, reported by D.D. Dupree from Tucson, AZ

10) So who do you think is going to win the Super Bowl?
9) Wait! Stop! Don't go out there! You have toilet paper stuck to your shoe.
8) Boy, everything sure is going well backstage.
7) Do you like my evening gown? I bought it at Sears.
6) I really liked your talent number, I never get tired of hearing Madonna.
5) Oh sure, put your stuff next to mine, I have plenty of room.
4) You know, these are the most comfortable shoes I've ever worn.
3) If you need any help moving your set, my dresser will be more than happy to lend a hand.
2) It doesn't matter who wins, it was so wonderful to be able to perform with everybody.
1) No, you take the crown. You were much better than me, and I don't deserve to win.

And now here's something we hope you'll REALLY like!

The rules for DRAGAZINE'S *Name Game are simple: the first name must be a real person's name, while the last name can make a two-word pun or simply be a play on words. You have your assignment should you decide to accept it, Jim. This tape will self-destruct in five seconds.*

Ladies
Anita Faker
Barbara Seville
Bionca Pacity
Bea Gone
Bea Hynde
Bea Real
Bea Smirch
Bea Thatway
Celine Solution
Delia Cards
Georgia deJungle
Ilene Intuit
Kitty Porn
Mary Krismiss
Phoney Braxton
Regina Upright
Suzy Homebreaker

Laddies
Bob N. Weave
Dan Yamkee
Frank Discussion
Harry Chest
Hugh Jass
Mike Rotch
Mr. Completely
Perry A. Water
Peter Gozinia
Phil McCrackin

STACY OSUGI

A gratuitous photo of best chums Lucia Porcini and Christina Dahling taking the designated limo driver — for a ride!

he RUBBER PARTS the RUBBER PARTS

with Gay erotic art, but somehow **Tom** found the formula at least once. The 31-page black-and-white magazine is called ***DICK***, and it appears to have been created during the hedonistic golden years of the 70s. ***DICK*** is about a football star who crows to the press of his prowess off the field with the girls. All this bragging signals a local Gay outing group to verify whether Dick doth protest too much. As a ploy, one of the guys dresses in Drag to lure our hero into a compromising position. When Dick uncovers the set up, he hesitates, then can't refuse under the peer pressure when two other guys come out from the bushes and all four have a sudden date. If this vintage collectible is up your alley, you can order ***DICK*** by sending $11 plus $6 shipping and 8.25% California tax, or a total of $17.91 in check or money order to The Tom of Finland Company, P.O. Box 26716, Dept. DRAGAZINE, Los Angeles, CA 90026.

A BRUSH WITH ARTIST MIGUEL ANGEL REYES

Miguel Angel Reyes is a young and gifted artist who is known for his drawings, illustrations and paintings that delightfully accompany the erotic stories in the pages of *Advocate Men* and *Advocate Freshmen* magazines. He also recently illustrated the cover of *Frontiers* newsmagazine. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Art and attended Otis College of Art and Design in the late 80s where he concentrated on fashion illustration. A few years after finishing his schooling in illustration, it has been his paintings that have earned him the most notice. He is known for donating his art for charity auctions and currently has work on display at the intersection of Hollywood and Argyle where the new subway Metro station is being built. While his latest work consists of abstract motifs, he also does commissioned portraits, but it's the very personal choices he's made in his portraits that drew us to him. Most of his subjects are people he knows or has met in clubs, like performance artist Ron Athey. The subjects we liked best were those of Drag Queens for a series he did, including paintings of **Jackie Beat** and **Alexis Arquette**. He'll do commissioned work for you too if you think you oughta be in pictures. Write to him c/o DRAGAZINE!

Speak, DeAundra, Speak!

One of Atlanta's Georgia Peaches Gives Us the Juicy Details About Her Life as a Teen Celebutant

PHILABOOBOO

Hey, y'all! It's me, DeAundra Peek, reportin' from Atlanta, Georgia, USA! Y'all know Atlanta really is a happenin' place, an' I am goin' to tell y'all all about it!

First off, there may be a couple of y'all who ain't heard of me yet. I has done been the star of my very own Public Access Television series since 1989. It's called ***DeAundra's Teenage Music Club***, and it's on cable channel 12 on Media One in Atlanta. Actually, we has done made several different versions of the show, on account a cause we's been on so long that for variety we keep changin' formats to keep people guessin'.

Our show is a music video showcase, featurin' videos from RuPaul, Jayne County, Angela Bowie, Miss "Lady" Bunny, Deee-Lite, Phoebe Legere, The Fabulous Pop Tarts, John Sex, The Now Explosion, an' a ton of other talented performers that you can't see on MTV or nothin'.

Sometimes the show is an "Ultra Style Bin," focusin' on fashion an' modelin' with guest designers from boutiques right here in Atlanta! Lordy, we even have a "TV Shoppin' Show" an' we market products like our patented Vienner Sausage Jerky Dehydrator, or Clovis & Otis Swern's Long Distance Telephone Service (guaranteed that your collect call is always goin' through). But irregardless of what it is, every show has got its

"Teenage Music Club" segment where I get to sing my song of the week, an' it's usually a blockbuster!

Growin' up in a musicationally oriented family, I started performin' with my sisters, The Singing Peek Sisters, as soon as I done got big enough. All of us girls has been gifted with naturally blonde hair an' voices from the Lord God/Goddess hisself/herself, an' I even has got the special gift of modelin', but I's the only one a the bunch that's done gone on to have my own TV show an' solo singin' career.

Now you ask me, DeAundra, what's it like bein' a Teenage Superstar? It's great, darlin'!

I has done sung songs by the bestest of em, includin' Elvis, Madonna, Glen Campbell, Elton John, Larry Tee, Mariah Carey, The Pointer Sisters, an' well, a course RuPaul. In fact, my very own video version of *Supermodel* somehow got to be a part of New York City's Whitney Museum's *Black Male: Representations Of Masculinity In Contemporary Culture* exhibit in 1995, even though I ain't a boy or African-American, but I guess cause Mr. RuPaul is, that must be the reason.

Some reporters has done described my live singin' style by calling it "foghorn" or "tone-deaf", but I ain't sure what that means 'cept that I'm loud. Around our trailer, my MeeMaw said, "We's all had to be loud so's we could be heard. See y'all, when me an my sisters get together, it's like a free-for-all an' cain't nobody else get a word in edgewise or straight-on, so I had to start singin' real loud-like. I's always gettin' asked to make the announcements at the Community Room on account a cause when the mike goes out everybody can still hear what I'm sayin'.

'Cept for them that's done run off, us Peeks live at Odum's All Double-Wide Mobile Homes Court in Palmetto, Georgia, just south of Atlanta. I'm in Phase 1 y'all, in a double-wide triple-high trailer cause with all the costumin' I's got to have a lot a space!

Odum's is a real tight-knit type of community, an' a course in a trailer park everybody knows everythin' about everybody else, even the most embarrassin' stuff (like when Rilla Swern locked herself in the Community Room bathroom for three days cryin' after John F. Kennedy Jr. done got married).

Now some of y'all might a done seen me at one of them Wigstock festivals in New York City, or in *Wigstock: The Movie* towards the end. My darlin' friend Miss "Lady" Bunny personally invited me to sing at all them Wigstocks from 1990-1995 an' I can't imagine a wilder time!

Now you ask me, DeAundra, what's it like bein' a Teenage Superstar? It's great, darlin'! I has got the bestest fans in the whole wide world! A course, that's what really makes a person a superstar, is the fans, on account a cause without em where would you be? No place, that's where.

Anyway, it's a mess of hard work too, with all that runnin' around an' stuff. Don't let nobody tell you that bein' a star is easy cause it ain't. My TV show, recordin' contract an' special appearances keep me real busy. Mr. Richardson, my producer at FuntoneUSA Records, has got me on a strict schedule. He says, "DeAundra, you has got to be up by 5:00 in the A. & M. cause the hairdresser has got to get you ready for your music video tapin' by 9:00," an' stuff like that.

We's always workin' so hard on my TV show, seems like the studio is my second trailer! Like, the other day we was tapin' vienner sausage recipe segments for the upcomin' holidays, then we had to go on location to the Palmetto Mini-Mall & Feed N' Seed Emporium an' do a *DeAundra On The Street* interview with people about *Gays in the Militia*, then I had to go into the recordin' studio an' sing backin' track for my next single, *Karma Chameleon*, an' that was all before 11:00 a.m.!

It's hard to try to live the life of a normal teenager while bein' in the spotlight, and I don't recommend it. I's a small-town girl who has done been all over the USA. It sure is fun to travel, but when you's got as many bags an' crates with costumes an' all like I has, you has got to have a special security force an' a mess a porters just to get around.

One thing I can say is that everybody is always so nice everywhere I go. Sometimes though dependin' on where I am, it's hard to get ahold of vienner sausages to snack on. I can't go a day without vienners. It's even in my contract that I'm sposed to have some kinda deli tray with vienners an' snowballs in my dressin' trailer at all times.

The most excitin' project I's workin' on right now is our Web Site (you's gonna have the address at the end of this here article). It's so pretty an' has so much fun stuff for people to look at an' respond to.

Well, thank you Missy Lois Commondenominator of DRAGAZINE for invitin' me to say "hi." It's been a pleasure visitin' with you! See you soon!

An here's a recipe that I just know when you're done eatin' it, you'll feel like repeatin' it!

MeeMaw's Impossible Vienner N' Cheese Pie

1 lb Hy-Grade Vienners (approx. 6 cans), sliced, chopped or squared
1/3 cup dried chopped onion chips, if desired
1 1/2 cups sweetened condensed milk
3/4 cup Hy-Grade Baking Mix
3 egg equivalents of Egg Beaters Imitation Egg Product
1 1/2 cups shredded or cubed Velveeta
1 jar Miracle Whip.

Grease rectangular microwavable pan, set aside. Prepare vienners an' onion chips, layer in the pan. In a blender, combine Egg Beaters, Bakin' Mix, an' condensed milk, mix on frappe until smooth. Pour over pan mixture, sprinkle with cheese. Microwave on high for 3 minutes, rotate 1/2 turn an' microwave another 2 minutes. Let set 2 more minutes an' serve with a generous dollop of Miracle Whip. Makes 8-10 servin's (unless Verlon Peek is eatin' in which case it makes 2-3 servin's).

For those of you surfing the Net, DeAundra's Web Site can be found at: http://www.mindspring.com/~searchie/odmsindx.html *or simply search Alta Vista for* **DeAundra Peek**.

Internationally Acclaimed Performance Artist Vaginal Davis Bares All!

Vaginal Davis is the talented Drag performance/conceptual artist whose creative energy has fueled a cottage industry of Vaginalia. She's a published poet, journalist, world-traveled performer, college circuit guest speaker, patron of the arts, recording artist and movie star. Her most recent appearance on the silver screen was in Bruce LaBruce and Rick Castro's controversial art-house movie **Hustler White**. DRAGAZINE *first became enamored of her years ago when she began publishing her own zine, the granddaddy of all gay zines,* **Fertile LaToyah Jackson Magazine**. *These days, admirers get a weekly Vaginal fix at her mixed Sunday nightclub in Silverlake called* **Sucker**. *When she's performing, her act almost always includes an interlude of foot worship, a fetish she's particularly known for. Her infamous reputation for this has garnered her the dubious title of The World's Most Famous Shrimp Queen. Among her many appearances during the last year, she could have been seen at Wigstock West, the White Party in Palm Springs or at the Schmidt Theater in Hamburg, Germany, during a theatrical series called* **Six Sex Weeks**. *Call her Vaginal Davis, Ms. Davis, Doctor Davis, The Future, controversial or legendary. Just don't call her VAAG!*

Vaginal Davis

Speaking from the Diaphragm

A REVEALING INTERVIEW WITH LOIS COMMONDENOMINATOR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK CASTRO

Vaginal as Ciccolina

It's a beautiful L.A. evening, and I'm visiting at the home of Vaginal Davis. Say hello to *Dragazine*.

[*Screaming*] Well, hello there, all you DRAGAZINE readers!

For some of our readers who might recall, DRAGAZINE reviewed a video featuring Vaginal in our Issue No. 7. The video had a wild title, *Fertile LaToyah Jackson Video Magazine: The Kinky Issue*. But before we get into all of that, let's explore your wonderful apartment. My, but you have some great knick knacks!

Yes, this is the Kennedy Compound West where JFK Jr. and I have our secret liasons. Don't tell anyone! Will you and DRAGAZINE readers keep it a secret? I can't afford to have the tabloids find out about my little love nest with JFK Jr., because he is the sexiest man in America, and he has one of the largest penises in America too!

How do you know?

Well, when it's going inside and entering me, I sometimes take a glimpse and look at it. My goodness!

Now what is this wonderful thing on your wall?

It's a wall-sized backdrop used in one of my performances, and it was designed by a magnificent artist who died last year, named Wagner Vieira. He was Brazilian and gorgeous! You would have loved him. He created the art for the stage backdrops to all of the Afro Sisters classic performances during our heydey in the 1980s. The Afro Sisters was one of the singing groups I've been involved with over the years. We used this particular backdrop in our ***We're Taking Over*** show, which was a salute to Patty Hearst and the Symbionese Liberation Army. The Afro Sisters had their own made-up militant organization called The Sexualese Liberation Front, and the words printed on the backdrop were our mottos — *Uncooperative reproduction, Fornicationasity, Self-Exclamation,* and *Duration*. When you're in bed with John John or any member of the Kennedy Clan, they have to have *Duration* in bed or kick them out! Then there's *Thrillicity*. *Thrillicity* is the moment when sex is over. Next is *Purpicity*. You have to have *Purpicity* in life. If you don't, then who else will? And of course there's *Anal Unity*. That's something that all your readers can relate to — *Anal Unity!* I've dedicated my new album, ***The White To Be Angry*** to *Anal Unity*!

***Thrillicity?! Duration?! The White To Be Angry?!* Those are really great terms and that title is hilarious! You do have a wonderful way with words.**

Yes, that's what I'm known for. I use very simple words, but I use them in a unique way. When I went to college, I remember I had this teacher named Professor Deutch at Cal State Northridge. He was one of my writing teachers that really encouraged me. He said to me, "You don't even realize what it is that you do or how good your stream of consciousness writing is." I've become known for my wordage. Professor Deutch told me that nothing I wrote was cliché. I think it's because of my Black, southern background that my writing is non-cliché.

Do you have a degree by the way?

Actually, I do, but I don't like to talk about the fact that I've actually gone to college. I don't believe in degrees, status or the University system. There are many ways to becoming an educated person.

That's okay, but the fact is that you've shown discipline in one area which carries over into other areas. That's an important point.

Yes, it's true, I was a very good student in school and the only person in my family to go to college. A lot of people from my background don't get that opportunity.

I have a feeling that you demanded attention.

Actually, I was very shy. What caused Vaginal Davis to emerge was that Vaginal was my way to counteract the shyness quotient — feeling so inadequate. I created a persona that could handle everything. A schizophrenic persona. I was fortunate in that I had teachers who recognized there was something special in me. They showered me with attention. But when I was in elementary school, I was this shy little person with glasses.

That seems like a common pattern among performers — they were shy as kids and found a way to break out of their shells.

"Well, when it's going inside and entering me, I sometimes take a glimpse and look at it. My goodness!"

Yes, I started creating personas very early in life to counteract the shyness. I didn't wanted to go through life being wall flowery, so I affected these personas, the first steps to full Vaginal awareness.

So what's the Doctor for? Is it an honorary degree?

I have a Ph.D. in Life Affirming Experiences. Well, seriously I was once an academe, but I gave up my academic career in that tired academic world! So that's why I call myself Dr. Davis — because I was geared towards an academic career — and I purposely abandoned it.

And now you're Vaginal Davis. It's a great stage name! Before we got together for this interview, I read through your enormous collection of press clippings and remember seeing that the Davis part of your name is from the fact that you're an Angela Davis fan. Apparently, nobody in print has ever asked you how you thought to use the first name of Vaginal.

It's just a controversial name because I'm a controversial Black woman!

What is your real name?

My real name is Clarence.

So your mother calls you Clarence?

No, my mother calls me Ms. Davis.

Ha! Where is your family from?

Well, my mother is from Louisiana, so I think that's part and parcel why I have this unique way of expressing myself. It's the way Southerners talk. I utilize slang and colloquial expressions.

One of the things you've been also known for is looking quite outrageous. For instance, you've used a foundation makeup that is way too light for your complexion. I'm sure that's done for comical effect, but do you have any makeup tips for DRAGAZINE**'s readers?**

Blend! Blend, blend and more blend.

Have you ever died your real hair blond?

Oh yeah! Back in the punk days. The last time I died my hair was in the early 1980s. Now, if I want a new hair color I wear wigs — it's lower maintenance.

I was never really a punk. But you're considered part of that movement.

I've always felt like I was too weird for even the freaks. I guess I was part of that whole punk thing, as a movement, and the homocore scene — I'm considered its wicked godmother, as far as these subcultural phenoms are concerned. If it wasn't for punk, I wouldn't have ever been able to be a performer. No other stage would have me. These days I consider myself more vaudeville — like Sophie Tucker.

I don't like to be seen in the same thing twice. Do you have a problem keeping up a wardrobe with all of your appearances?

I wear the same things all the time, but on me they just look different. People think I have tons of clothes and amazing outfits, but I just turn things around and wear them different ways.

Speaking of your different looks, in your *Fertile LaToyah Jackson Video*, your looks were just amazing! And you appeared to be bilingual. Do you know how to speak Spanish fluently?

I'm part Mexican darling. But actually, the whole joke was that while I was speaking complete gibberish — as the Tele Mundo reporter — the translation overlaid on the bottom of the screen, with the man I'm interviewing is saying, "My ex-wife didn't teach the proper values about the Virgin." I just did a guest lecture at Cal Arts where I showed some of my videos and read some of my writings and my published works. It was a graduate and undergraduate writing class, and honey, when they saw that ***Live Action Murder*** video, they were in stitches! I showed an older video called ***That Fertile Feeling***, where Fertile gives birth to eleventuplets. In my new one-woman show called ***Intimacy & Tomorrow***, everything is very multimedia — video, slides, shrimping, lactating, the whole gamut. Like Betty Buckley, I'll be getting my act together and taking it out on the road.

Did you write all of those videos or did you have some collaborative help?

I created the character of Fertile. My good friend that I've known since junior high school portrays her. I knew we could play off of each other well. I don't write a script word for word. I don't believe in that. I like to be very extemporaneous and I pick people who can work with me. So what I do is, I have an outline or storyboard and I tell whoever I'm playing with that in this scene we're going to do whatever, to get from Point A to Point B, and then we'll talk about this and that.

Vaginal's homage to Raquel Welch in 1,000,000 Years B.C.

I like to perform but I don't like to memorize lines.

I don't like to memorize either. When I appeared in the miniseries ***Tales Of The City*** for PBS, it was horrible! We had to do it over and over again! I portrayed the

hostess at the End Up. It was the scene where Mouse, the Michael Tolliver character, is in the Wet Underwear Contest, and I'm the Queen that introduces the contest. Did you remember seeing me in it?

Of course I do! It was a great series. Too bad they couldn't get the funding for more episodes. Tell me, do you think you have a message you want to give people through your work?

I definitely have a message to give to people as a performer/writer.

It isn't, "You Better Work!" is it?

No, it's not like a slogan. It's a little more cerebral. I don't hit you on the head with my message, I sort of soak it into you gradually. And then you wake up the next day and say to yourself, "Is that what she was talking about?! Oh!"

"I think almost everything is open for satire and parody. If you can't laugh at yourself, you're leading a very sad life."

For example?

I have my own unique take on issues of Race, class, gender and sex. I'm known for taking stereotypes and turning them around.

What do you think is the next big cultural movement?

You sure do ask those prostate probing questions darling! Well, having been through so much youth culture over the years, from glitter/glam, disco and punk. I've been through every movement and scene. As we approach the end of the Millenium, I see that we're definitely in crisis.

Isn't there always a crisis?

Not always. We're all just people who are alienated from God, or whatever your spirituality may be. You could be worshipping cabbage Lois, for all I know!

Are you a Conservative? Are you a Republican?

I'm very conservative — neo conservative chic! But I'm not a Republican. I'm not stretching it that far! My latest incarnation in my band, Pedro, Muriel and Esther, is down right Right Wing. Our new concept album is called ***The White To Be Angry***. Within the context of this band, I drop the Vaginal Davis 'hot-sexy- libertine' persona. Instead, I'm taking male hormone therapy to get more masculine. My band members and I have joined the Idaho Militia and we wear camouflage outfits. We have our sawed-off shotguns and are stockpiling our weapons. I'm having a race conversion and becoming a hot, sexy white supremacist.

People might follow what you're doing and take you all too seriously!

It's so easy to follow other people than to be on your own. I think Gay culture has no understanding of irony whatsoever. Like when they were protesting against that movie ***Basic Instinct***, that movie was hysterical! The Gay and Lesbian Anti-

KATJA PERRY

Vaginal with co-conspirator Michelle and singer Glen Meadmore backstage at LACE performance space.

KATJA PERRY

In an academic mode, Vaginal takes on her neo-conservative look reading her poetry.

Defamation organization made a big to-do. They were offended by the lesbian character being a sadistic murderess, but she was a hot killer. Does every portrayal have to be this sensitive coming out story? It's boring! There's no drama there. Please! I'm not about affirming anything to people. Let's affirm these things on our own. This whole thing about self-help groups and such, everyone has to latch on to something. It's just another form of not being able to think for yourself and instead follow the leader.

But you *are* a leader.

I don't consider myself a leader. I don't want followers.

You'd be surprised! I think what you're doing is so wonderful! I think people should emulate what you do because your're self- actualizing.

I can remember being in New York and filming this movie with Glenda Orgasm, and she and I were stopped on the street by an elderly couple. It was a man and a woman who were married, conservative. We were over on West 57th street, near the Charivari store. They came up to us and saw we were surrounded by a camera crew and photographers were taking our pictures. We were getting a lot of

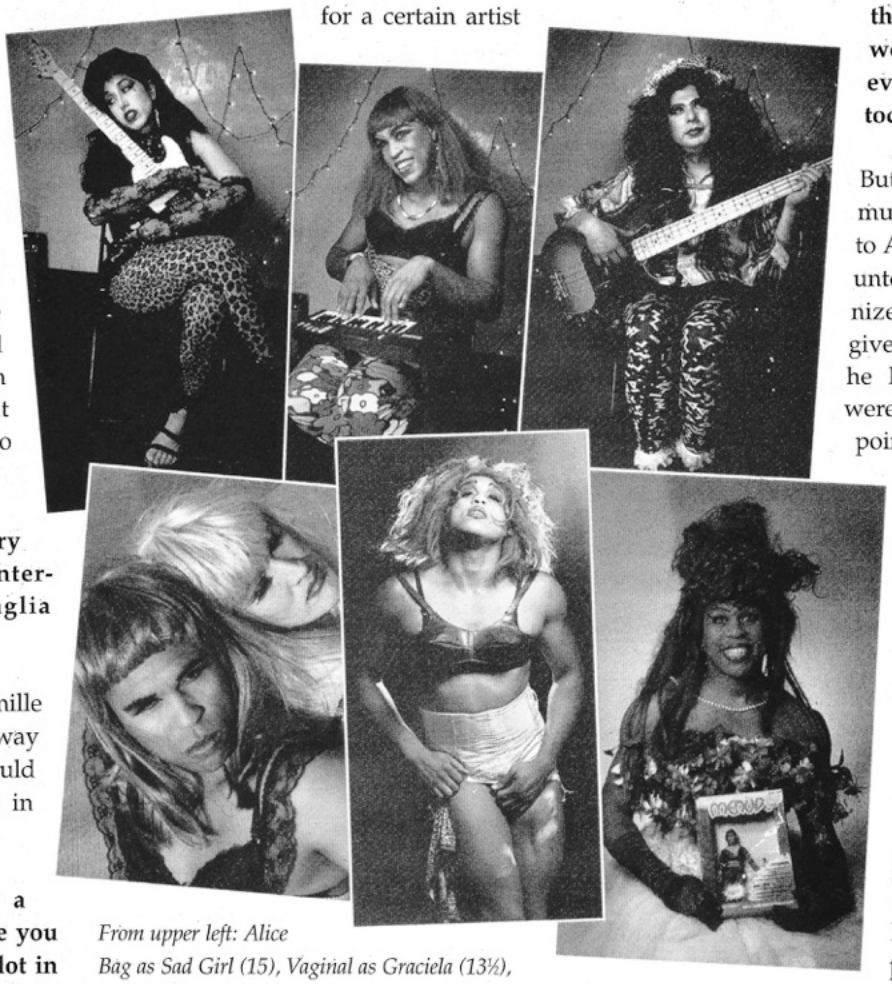
attention with our filming cinema verité style on the streets of New York. They came up and wanted our autographs! I don't even think they knew who we were! But we looked like we were famous, so they wanted our autographs. And Glenda said something so hysterical, that it just completely sums up my belief. She told them, "I'm not going to give you my autograph. You shouldn't worship us because we're celebrities. I don't believe in giving autographs because we're just like you". They didn't care — they still wanted them. So I gave them my autograph, but Glenda continued to refuse. She is so hot!

DRAGAZINE **ran a story on Glenda Orgasm interviewing Camille Paglia in Issue No. 7.**

So many Gays hate Camille Paglia. They take her way too seriously. You should see some of the anger in their faces.

Camille does cause a ruckus! I can see where you and she would have a lot in common. Are there things that you wouldn't do?

Another prostate-probing question! What wouldn't I do?



From upper left: Alice Bag as Sad Girl (15), Vaginal as Graciela (13½), Fertile LaToyah Jackson as Guadalupe (12½) from the female Menudo band ¡Cholita! From lower left: Vaginal and Glen Meadmore from their speedmetal thrash band Pedro, Muriel and Esther. Vaginal as the slightly mad Serpentina. Vaginal lower right: "¡Yo no soy puta, soy princessa!"

Well, you haven't been pierced and you haven't gotten a tattoo.

That's true. But I think almost everything is open for satire and parody. If you can't laugh at yourself, you're leading a very sad life. You can laugh and cry at the same time.

Like when?

Sometimes things are so tragic that you have to laugh, even with AIDS. That's another subject that I go off on. So many people make so much money off of this disease.

That's not really anything new.

That's why I'm really selective when I do benefits. I have to feel that the money will go directly to someone in need. One time, there was a benefit for a certain artist who was having difficulties, so I performed at his benefit and all the money raised at that benefit went directly to that person. Now that is the kind of benefit I like. I feel very uncomfortable about the big organizations. I do believe there's a lot of people who volunteer and are really sincere who work for them, but I think there's a lot of unscrupulous opportunists out there, so beware. Remember Craig Lee? [*L.A. punk legend and writer*] He put on one of the very early alternative rock benefits for AIDS, and I performed at the event with my band, The Afro Sisters. The benefiting charity wasn't even interested because they didn't think there was much clout in the underground L.A. rock scene. It wasn't until they realized that more mainstream bands like ***The GoGo's*** came out of this scene, that they took notice.

I remember that time too, and I know that a lot of Gay people weren't into rock, if they ever were or even are today for that matter.

But so many of the local musicians had succumbed to AIDS, and Craig Lee volunteered his time to organize the community and give the charity the money he helped raise, but they weren't that interested. The point I'm trying to make is that we should be a little more scrutinizing when volunteering and donating our time to these organizations.

If there was one last thought you would like to leave with DRAGAZINE**'s readers, what would it be?**

I tend to do things with a spoonful of sugar, but I'm not afraid to leave people shaking their heads in disgust. You have to take that risk.

Thanks for being risque with DRAGAZINE!

To order a copy of the CD ***The White to be Angry*** *please send $10.95 postage paid to Spectrasonic Records, PO Box 477867 Chicago, IL 60647, or ask for it at your favorite music store. To order* ***Fertile LaToyah Jackson Video Magazine, Volume 1*** or ***Volume 2****, send $29.95 postage paid per volume payable to Pyewackett, 1312 No. Stanley, Los Angeles, CA 90046, or ask for it at your favorite video store.* ***Unnatural Disasters****, a compilation featuring new work by Vaginal Davis, printed by Incommunicado Press is available at your favorite bookstore.*

Meet the Drag Kings of New York

photography by Efrain Gonzalez

Mo B. Dick and the Other Midnight Cowgirls Strut Their Stuff in the Big Apple

BY NORA BURNS

A recent rainy Sunday night finds drag impresario Mo B. Dick on the stage of her normally packed weekly party, Club Casanova. She's tearing a current copy of *Penthouse* magazine to shreds. The offending material is not busty babes or raw spread twat, hardly. Moments before, the side-burned siren had been *oohing* and *ahhing* over the very same. Instead, she's destroying the issue because of a feature article on Drag Kings by The Unrepentant Voyeur, a one Ralph Gardner, Jr.. In his nasty and not very well-written piece for which he interviewed several of New York's more glamorous Drag Kings, he concludes that they're not pretty enough to fuel his lesbian fantasies!

After the *Penthouse* pyre, the festive mood resumes. The show that night features a love ballad sung by special guest Drag *Queen* Sherry Vine and Club Casanova regular Labio ("Fabio's younger brother"). New York's Drag Queens have been very supportive of their battened-down brother's burgeoning scene. Club Casanova was started by Drag King Mo B. Dick with Drag Queen Mistress Formica of Squeezebox fame. Squeezebox is a live music and performance space where several Drag Kings, like Buster Hymen, Shelley Mars and Julie Wheeler have performed. One of Casanova's most notorious shows featured Drag Queen Jackie Beat getting a Drag King make-over on stage. Casanova is for Drag Kings what Boy Bar or Pyramid was for fledgling Queens in the 80s, a place to dress up and put on a show. "As a performer, the whole genderfuck is so erotic for me," says Labio, "Everyone gets turned on."

Lizarace, who runs the year-old Club with Mo and deejays there as well, has been doing drag for less than a year, making her "more Prince than King." Her *Star is Born* story is that after being inspired by the performers she saw at Casanova, she went in Drag one night and "just happened" to have a tape with her. When one performer failed to show up, the rest is his-story.

While Casanova is Emperor, other clubs, like Squeezebox and Clit Club have embraced the Drag King movement as well. Her/She Bar is another great nightspot where Super Fly Drag King Dred rules in all his/her dreadlocked glory. They occasionally do Drag King contests with prizes of up to $500 with mixed results. The winner is sometimes not an authentic Drag King at all, which is okay, but instead the butchest girl with the most friends in the audience.

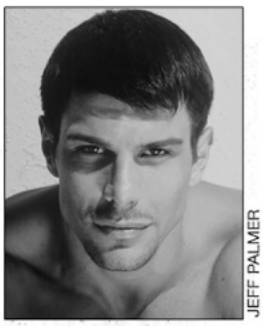
While other cities have their token Drag King — for instance Phranc in Los Angeles and Elvis Herselvis in San Francisco — New York has the only "scene." That's because New York has an active roster to keep a movement alive and growing, thanks to Drag Kings such as Mo, Liz, Dred, Bud, Justin and Pencil Kase, Uncle Louie and the rest who put together weekly shows. "When we first started and weren't that confident, we put on a whole false bravado. Now there's a genuine male-bonding going on. Everyone gets confused, but it's so much fun," says Labio, who wants to charter a plane and export Drag Kings to places like Australia, Asia or even the West Coast, where she found herself the "lone King on the block, save for someone named Rusty Scrotum, who looked like a housewife in a bad wig."

All that may be changing, according to Mo, who is the epicenter of the Drag King media blitz. In addition to pieces being done by the *New York Times*, *German Vogue* and *Marie Claire*, Lucia Davis (a/k/a Woody Lay) has over 80 hours of Drag King footage she has been shooting over the last five years, which has aired on *Dyke TV* and at various clubs, and she plans to edit into a feature-length film. "Sure there is a message here, about freedom, etc., but looking at this stuff and talking to people about the issues is such a turn-on," says Davis/Lay, "I get hard just thinking about it."

Thom Collins

— *stirred, not shaken*

A conversation with
Lois Commondenominator



JEFF PALMER

He's a muscle studkin, a sexy centerfold, an AIDS activist, and an outrageous Drag Queen Go-Go dancer. Thom Collins puts his best high-heeled foot forward at whatever he does.

Thom, say hello to DRAGAZINE'S readers!

DRAGAZINE, hello! How are you? This is Thom Collins! I've been HIV Positive for 13 years.

Now, before I met you, you asked me to visit your World Wide Web Site, and I checked it out, you're a very 90s kind of guy. The fact that you have a Web Page on top of your other talents and hobbies. For readers online that's *http://www.ally.ios.com/~thompoz*. You have a comic edge to what you do. When I've seen you dance, you've been this wild, outrageous character.

It's true that I have many faces. I've got the face of being Gay, being a Drag Queen, being a male dancer, being a male model, being HIV positive, taking care of step-kids, my Open Your Heart Foundation, and I'm also a businessman. I'm known as someone who wears campy clothes, who's loud and obnoxious and wants to have fun with people. Really what it all boils down to is that I've learned with this disease that my Drag behavior started out as a camp. It was Studio One in 1989 where I started dancing. When I came out Gay, I came out screaming! Every time I opened my mouth, petticoats and bows popped out!

Shifting gears for a moment, let's talk about the way you express your Drag almost with religious fervor. Did you ever go to a seminary or think you would become a spiritual leader?

No, but when I was a young kid, Jesus was my hero. Then for a time I thought Madonna was my idol. Now, I'm just spiritual. When I first moved to Los Angeles, I fit into the West Hollywood image. I played the whole stereotypical role that homosexuals do. If you're muscular, you're supposed to wear tight jeans, a T-shirt and have a Dorothy Hamill hairdo. I was a lighting fixture.

(*giggling*) Tell us what brought you back to L.A. this time?

I'm with the Proof Positive modeling agency. When I was interviewed in **POZ** magazine in 1995, it was time to share my story with the nation of living with HIV for 13 years. By the grace of God I haven't gotten sick.

Weren't you in *Playgirl* magazine?

Yes, I was a *Playgirl* centerfold. A beefcake, macho stud running around the beach in a girl's swimsuit with Barbie dolls tied to it. Before that, I modeled for the International Male catalog. Then I did *Men's Workout*, and then I got tired of that whole thing. I must admit, I hit a plateau. I had done what I wanted to do model wise. Now living in Oklahoma, I started my Open Your Heart Foundation. It's now nationwide. I've also gotten into the home-health-care business with my companion. I'm writing a book about HIV and AIDS spirituality. I'm HIV positive and I don't have time to dwell on negativity. So, if I choose on a Friday night to throw on a pair of heels and wrap my head in a turban and strut around, so be it. Life is too short not to have fun.

JEFF PALMER

Thom Collins isn't a Drag name. Have you ever had a real Drag name?

My friend Lauren and I were fooling around with Dot Com or Minnie Blinds, but I ended up sticking with my own name.

You were also in the movie *Man of the Year*. Tell us about that.

In 1991, Dirk Schafer, a guy who I went to high school with, became *Playgirl Magazine*'s Man of the Year. Well, I actually won Man of the Year, but they gave it to Dirk because he *quote unquote* played the stereotypical straight man role. When I lost Man of the Year, I was known as L.A.'s hottest *Transie Dancer*. I started mixing pumps and lipstick and became this androgynous body boy at a club called Arena. I found androgyny very interesting. There's no tucking or padding. There's pumps and wigs, but I'm not out there to sing a ballad. I'm loving life! I'm not a tragic figure.

What do you think has kept you going?

As spiritual as I am, I've always said that religion is for those who are afraid of Hell and spirituality is for those who have been there. This disease is about knowledge. The more knowledge you have the more power you have. Don't be scared of something you don't understand. Don't condemn me because I wear Drag and have muscles.

The Key to Support is to Start Through Your Heart

The Open Your Heart Foundation is the transitional living center that Thom Collins and his lover started in Oklahoma for people who have been slammed by AIDS. They provide help for those in need. For example, a person may have been kicked out of their homes for being positive, or maybe they lost their job and insurance when they became too sick to work. Your donations, grants and bequests are very appreciated. Please send your tax deductible contribution to:

Open Your Heart Foundation

P.O. Box 335
Oklahoma City, OK 73101

RICHARD ARMAS

It's been a Vintage Year for The Lady Chablis

New York's Joe E. Jeffreys Visits With The Grand Empress of Savannah, GA

For over two years now John Berendt's Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil *has ridden high on the* New York Times *best seller list. The nonfiction title is a compelling read concerning time spent by its author in Savannah, Georgia, and a murder committed by one of the historic Southern city's prominent citizens, a successful Gay antiques dealer. Berendt's work also draws vivid portraits of the people he met during his stay. Among these individuals is a sassy black female impersonator named The Lady Chablis, who serves as subject for two unforgettable chapters.*

ROBIN BOWMAN

Like a successful character in a popular television sit-com, The Lady Chablis, a phenomenon in her own right, has spun off her own book entitled Hiding My Candy *(Pocket Books).*

During the course of her recent book-tour swing through New York City, The Lady Chablis and I sat down over cocktails in the bar of the Sheraton Hotel. I found her to be disarmingly charming and gracious.

How did your book *Hiding My Candy* come about?

My book came about because of John Berendt's book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. John did such a good job of portraying my character that it drew interest from other publishing companies. They saw that John's book was going to be a big success and that I was one of the major characters that made the book a big success. Had Pocket Books not offered me the book deal, I'm almost sure now that someone else would have. Luckily, I was living in the City of Savannah and the editor from Pocket Books called and asked if she could come from New York and meet me. I said yes, so she came down and spent three days with me to ask me questions about what did I think about writing a book. I was just like, "Chil', I never thought about writing a book. I'm no author. This old thing." She went back to New York, and about four days later she called and made me an offer. I jokingly said, "No, get me $25,000 more and I'll do it." She said, "I'll call you back." Twenty minutes later she called again and said, "I got it." Sometimes my sense of humor can really pay off. She really found out about my personality from David Hutchins who was a reporter from *People* magazine. He had done a story on me when John's book came out. He told me when he finished his interview, "Chablis, if I ever run into anybody that I think can help you, I'll give them your phone number." He talked about me to a friend at *People*. She had just quit the magazine and gone to work for Pocket Books when this all happened. I was her first book deal.

Do you know how many copies were printed?

By next week I'm sure I'll be asking how many were printed and are being sold but I don't know. Not being in the publishing business, all this is still new to me, those are the questions that I forget to ask. I take things day by day. I've been so lucky and blessed. I don't go out looking for stuff. Everything that I have done has come to me. God has always blessed me with everything that I have. God has always sent it to me. I didn't go out looking for a book deal. I didn't go out looking for John Berendt. I didn't ask John Berendt to write about me. But somehow this man from Manhattan and this boy from a small town in Florida called Quincy met in Savannah.

Who are your idols or heroes?

There are three people I most admire who have helped me a lot with my attitude. They are Maya Angelou, Oprah Winfrey and Whoopi Goldberg. And Whoopi Goldberg and Oprah Winfrey are my favorite actresses. Whoopi Goldberg is my

most favorite actress because she is so versatile. She can do anything and still look the way she is looking and I love her for that. She did not change herself for Hollywood or anybody. Whoopi Goldberg kept them dreadlocks and them eyebrows and she still wears that chocolate-raisin lipstick.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement is making somebody smile every day. As an entertainer it is the most important thing to me. God has given me the gift of gab, a sense of humor and a personality. I take that and I use that to make people happy and forget about their problems. I'm an entertainer and people come out to see my shows or go to clubs to drink and forget about their problems. People may not have money to pay their rent but they will have money to go out to have a drink.

What do you dislike most?

I do not like being labeled. When they said I was going to be doing an interview with DRAGAZINE, I went, "Well, why do they want me? I don't consider myself a Drag Queen." Society labels me that, but I don't label myself that. If anybody should be labeled the person should label themselves. It is because society says that I have to have a label that I choose female impersonator because that is what I do. I impersonate the female. Women have taught me everything that I know. Drag Queens didn't. They helped me a lot, but women taught me everything I know to where I can say you don't label me. You call me "Drag Queen" because you saw me do a show, you saw me lip-synch. But does that mean that you are a "Drag Queen?" I dress in dresses. I have male genitalia. Does that make me a "Drag Queen?" I have small hands. I have small feet. I have a small body. That was my gift from God. God put me here to be just what I am, the way that I am. He gave me all this smallness and all this femininity that I have had ever since I can remember at the age of four. But he did not give me that one thing that would label me, again, "a woman." But I am in touch with both my masculine and feminine side. I get to see both worlds. I see that the female is the most powerful creature on this earth if only they would realize it. You know, honey, us women can close our legs. Lock that pussy up, baby, and there wouldn't be another man on this earth. We could be the president if we wanted to by the time it was over.

What's your motto? Do you have a motto?

Two tears in a bucket, motherfucker. What that means is: sometimes you have to cry. Go ahead. Drop a few tears. But then move on. Pass it on. Move outta the way. Things are only as bad as you let them be.

Do you see yourself as political?

No. And I don't see myself as a role model or any of that. I don't want to be anybody's role model because I can only be myself and I've done some wrong things in my life. I still make mistakes and I don't know what life is all about. I cannot be a role model for anyone. I can be a friend. I can say, "If it were me this is what I would do." But I really don't give advice.

In the book you talk about the Savannah League of Uptown White Women. Tell me a little about it.

Well, okay, baby. That is a little something a bunch of friends and I started. S.L.U.W.W. was our code word for it. It was a group of friends that consisted of some Gay males, some female impersonators, some real girls, and we would all get together and call ourselves the Savannah League of Uptown White Women. We would have our P.T.A. meetings which were *Party, Talk* and *Alcohol*. It started out with just a few of us but then I incorporated it into my routine. And then heterosexual women started coming up to me saying that they wanted to become a member of the Savannah League of Uptown White Women. And I'd say, "Well, girl, now you pay your dues and you can become a member. But you must remember that I am president, vice-president and treasurer."

You say that everybody has the right to have the mindset of an uptown white woman.

Everybody has that right. The word *white* is not meant to be labeling. It's not to say that white people are the only people who can be uptown. But the way society is you say "uptown white woman" and you get the whole picture. It means all women whether black, white, Chinese, or whatever. It's for all women.

And Savannah has embraced you completely since *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*?

Savannah has no choice in the matter since I have become the number-one tourist attraction there. That's been the greatest thing about it. For 15 years now I have been an entertainer in the Gay bars. Now I am getting to do my thing all over the world, all over the heterosexual world which is an accepting world. I never knew that before. With my book. I wrote it for every heterosexual who may have a little Gay child.

Is there a difference between the way straight women react to you compared to straight men?

Being a female impersonator who deals a lot with the heterosexual world, I have women who look at me and come up to me and tell me that I am beautiful. When a woman looks me in the eye and tells me that, they are being honest. It is the highest compliment I can get. When a man tells me that, he wants some. He wants some of the Doll. Impersonators, Drag Queens are always the low ones on the totem pole. We are the butts of Gay men's jokes. I refuse that. I will not have that. I get angry with Gay people when they talk about Drag Queens the way that they can talk about Drag Queens. We are the ones who are paying for their clubs for them to go to and we are the ones that get paid the least. We're the ones that have no benefits, no health insurance, no dental insurance, no Christmas bonus, can't remember my birthday. Those days are over. I'm very angry with Gay bar owners because they could have stopped this a long time ago. But they are selfish, thinking of themselves, putting the money in their own pockets instead of taking a girl to have her teeth fixed. I've only met two people in my life who were good employers and I talk about them in my book. But it's time the rest stop all that.

And you said you weren't political!

TERRY GASKINS

They say that behind every successful man is a woman. For Chicago entertainer Don Auxier, success waited until he placed his feminine alter ego front and center, and her name is Honey West. For years now, Honey's award-winning cabaret show has been the toast of Chicago nightlife, but Don's credits as Honey go beyond the cabaret stage. Honey has also appeared in a revival of Vampire Lesbians of Sodom, *shared a plum spot in the limelight in the Gay-marriage theatre piece,* Tony and Tony's Wedding, *backed up Cyndi Lauper on Oprah, appeared at Queerstock '96, hosted by The "Lady" Bunny, sung the title track to the new Judy Tenuta film,* Butch Camp, *provided the entertainment for Gucci's unveiling of their new fragrance Accenti in Chicago, and found herself busy in the studio recording her debut CD,* **Take Honey West Home**.

BE MY GUEST, SAYS HONEY WEST

AN INTERVIEW WITH LINDSEY COCHRAN

Where did Honey West come from?

It was sort of an accident that happened. I was working at Dandy's, the old Dandy's club on Halsted. I had a friend that lived as a woman, and she dressed me up on New Year's Eve. It was freezing! A bitter, bitter cold! I was bigger than her, but I wore her coat that was not quite fitting, and she had a pair of open toed shoes that I put on. In Winter! Who knew? So here I am, not in a lot of makeup. I have a little blush, mascara, some lips and had purchased a blond bob. I thought that going out for the first time among people who knew me would be fun! Well, nobody recognized me! In fact, I was getting picked up by cabdrivers and people out for New Year's Eve. You know, *honk-honk* and *screech*.

It was like a drug to me! People opened doors for me. They gave me their seat. They bought me drinks and told me I was pretty. They touched me. It was like a happy pill! Then there was the attention I received from very handsome men. It made me feel better when I didn't feel good during a very low point in my life. Dressing up was an escape. After that, I decided that being an effeminate male, I mean, I knew I wasn't going to be Curly in *Oklahoma*. So I thought, why don't I see how far I can take Honey, just as a sort of hobby. So one night I sang. I went out in "face" as a joke for New Year's Eve and sang a couple of numbers at a club. The rest is history.

You're so real-looking. Have you ever considered having a sex change?

No, I'm totally a boy. There's no hormones. There's no shots. There's nothing. But I wasn't built like a football player to begin with either!

What were you like as a kid?

I grew up overweight, Gay and in a farmer family in the suburbs of Gary, Indiana. My parents had no concept of what I did. Before my dad was a farmer, he worked in steel mills. Nobody else sang. Nobody else was in theater in the family.

A lot of drag performance has been based on lip-synching, but you're one of a growing number of performers using their own voice. Tell us something about your background that helped you in this area.

I always wanted to sing. After graduating from Indiana University with a degree in musical theater, I sang at resorts and on cruise ships for about seven years. When I moved back to Chicago, I performed in a show called *Dirty Dreams of a Clean-Cut Kid*. After that ended I decided to see how far I could take Honey, so I designed a show called *A Taste of Honey*. It was very Bob Fosse with four male dancers, musical numbers with backup singers, full-fledged lighting, design production, a slide show, music, an orchestra pit — the whole business. And that's how I launched Honey in Chicago.

Does Honey West sing differently than Don Auxier?

I'm not Barbra Streisand, but it's all in the feeling, feeling sexy! As a boy, I might sing (*determinedly*) "I can only give you love that lasts forever." But as Honey, sometimes I'm feeling sexier, and I sing in a lighter voice, (breathier and more enticingly) "I can only-y-y give you love tha-a-at lasts forevuh. And I promise to be near e-e-each time you call."

Do you have any idols or role models?

If I had to have one role model, it'd be Liberace. He was flamboyant and humble. And he truly loved what he did. He was married to his talent.

What is the one thing people should know about you?

People assume that — I don't want to offend anybody that does drag — they assume that I lip-synch, which is a whole separate talent and art form in itself. But that's not what I do. I respect people who lip-synch, but there's a stigma in the theatrical world that goes with being "just a Drag Queen." I really worked hard to turn people around to think of me as an entertainer.

What's the most exciting thing going on with Honey West right now?

My new CD ***Take Honey West Home***. It's my recording debut. It will be released by Island Records here in Chicago. We present what I do in a cabaret setting, but with arrangements for a full band and a jazz quartet. There are seventeen tracks. We've included some of the song medleys I'm known for, plus we're breaking new ground by putting a couple of dance tracks on it. I'm working with some incredible talents!

Who helped you on this record?

My arranger Vince Willis, who's worked with Chaka Khan and Janet Jackson. I also enlisted a very accomplished four-man horn section — the Chicago Firehouse. I'm being produced by the management team of Kevon Smith and Jim Casey.

You crack jokes, you sing, you dance, you flirt. What sets Honey West apart from the multitudes trying to break in to show business?

(*thoughtfully*) I've seen where people will come to a show with different facades — they'll come in from maybe a leather or cruise bar, a dance bar or even a straight establishment. I'll have straight people, Gay people, Lesbians — and by the end of the show, we're all the same. The facades drop and we become people as opposed to walking stereotypes of whatever we are viewed as. Everybody is made to feel welcome, so at a Honey West show they won't just feel like individuals sharing space in a bar.

> "If I had to have one role model, it'd be Liberace. He was flamboyant and humble."

To order Honey West's debut CD **Take Honey West Home**, *call 800-TAKE-A-BOW. For information about live appearances, call the Honey West Hotline at 773-478-7588. And visit Honey's Web Site at* **http://www.honeywest.com**.

Chattin' *'round the* Cookie Jar *with Mark's Mom,* Mavis Davis

AN INTERVIEW WITH DANIEL GRI

PHOTOS BY HAROLD RAMSEY

For the last six years, stand-up comic Mark Davis has trod the "quiche" circuit and appeared on cable television with his queer-comedy stylings. As any DRAGAZINE *reader should be convinced of by now, inside every great man lives a great Drag personality. Mark Davis is no exception. His alter ego Mother Mavis Davis has been responsible for a great many of Mark's successes. Finally, someone has managed to candidly capture this elusive woman in her natural habitat, her own kitchen, in this exclusive interview.*

What's a typical day's activities consist of for Mavis Davis?

The first thing I always do every morning is empty the garbage, especially if I'm depressed. It gets me outside. Then I go in and wake my son Mark. He's usually been out all night.

How many children do you have?

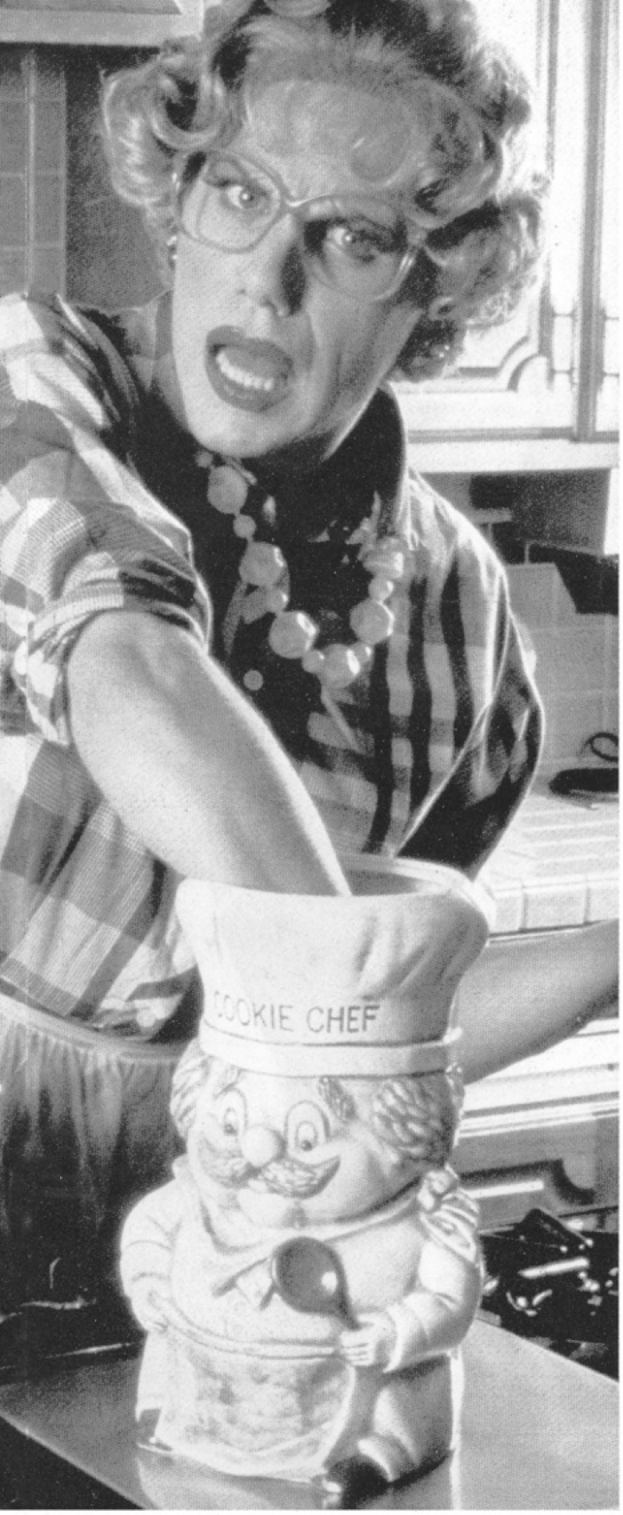
I've got seven kids. Seven kids in seven years. I felt like a Pez dispenser! Mark's my homosexual son. He's my favorite. Don't tell the others I said that.

Were your children educated in sex?

We're from one of those religions where you don't talk about sex.

What was your reaction to the news that you had a Gay son?

Typical I guess. At first, I thought it was his father's and my fault, maybe if his Dad had played more ball with him. Being the practical person that I am, I also worried about how being homosexual would limit his career options, but I could have saved myself that grief. He could always be a flight attendant! That way I could fly for free. I'm always looking on the bright side. Then I joined *Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, PFLAG* for short. When I first heard about ***PFLAG***, I thought it was a roach spray. It's a support group.



What do you think of religion's position on Gays?

Well, they say you can be homosexual as long as you don't practice it. Thank goodness my Mark doesn't need any more practice!

How did the rest of the family take the news about Mark being Gay?

His brothers beat the crap out of him, but you know, he fought back. I had to hose them all down, it got to be a bit much. His sisters were a little better as long as they weren't fighting over clothes.

If your son brought a boyfriend home for the weekend, what would the sleeping arrangements be?

I already told you we don't talk about sex in our house.

Would you encourage your Gay son to marry another man?

Only if he married for money. I'm such a card, I should be dealt with!

How do you feel about the institution of marriage?

Marriage is for raising children. If anybody thinks it's worth it for any other reason, they're out of their minds!

How should Gay people go about having children?

How many times do I have to tell you we don't talk about sex?! I will say that I think adoption is a wonderful concept. There are so many kids out there who don't have enough love and are already here. Why go to the trouble to make a new one? I think if you have the love, the support of your family and friends, and the money to take care of a child, it's a sin not to take on the responsibility.

How do you feel about sex and violence in the entertainment industry?

I can't stand it! I love old movies. I'm so sick of seeing crap like that Meryl Streep rubbing her hands all over Clint Eastwood in that *Bridges of Madison County* picture!

How has modern technology affected your life?

I really love my microwave. I don't do much cooking anymore. I still love to eat, only out, and often.

If you could have one wish come true, what would you wish for?

I don't wish, I pray. You get better results.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Just staying alive, I hope.

Any last words to DRAGAZINE's readers?

Remember what I said in the beginning of this interview, when you get up in the morning, empty the garbage! It gets you outside.

"Well, they say you can be homosexual as long as you don't practice it. Thank goodness my Mark doesn't need any more practice!"

Mavis Davis appears with Mark Davis at nearly every engagement. For bookings and other information, please call Dragon Talent at 213-669-1272.

ALEXIS DEL LAGO

a not so silent star

AN INTERVIEW WITH LOIS COMMONDENOMINATOR

Alexis Del Lago is a cabaret performer and playwright originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina. He has become known by cultivating his alter ego, that of an effervescent, flamboyant female personality. Alexis loves to portray Marlene Dietrich and other leading ladies of Hollywood legend. He recently moved to Los Angeles from New York and has successfully put down new roots here. It didn't take long for DRAGAZINE ***to connect with him. We finally sat down one sunny afternoon, sipped herbal tea in his beautiful art deco apartment, and began our chat by first going through some memorabilia.***

IRENE VILAR

You have so many wonderful photos in your collection!

Thank you, dahling! Here are some treasures taken by Marcus Blechman. He is the famous New York-based photographer who captured everybody of note from the stage and film worlds. Here are photos of Gloria Swanson, Pola Negri, Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne.

This particular photo of you is absolutely beautiful! What was the occasion?

The night Marcus met me he said, "Call me. I'm going to make you look like an angel." And I said, "No, I want to look like Marlene Dietrich!" I have been known for playing a character that Dietrich was famous for portraying named Ami Jolie. As Ami, Marlene wore a top hat, white tie and tails. It came from my favorite movie of hers, ***Morocco***, one of Dietrich's best.

Besides your resemblence, what attracted you to Marlene?

I think that Marlene Dietrich is the first and the last of the real movie stars. Marlene Dietrich was more than just a star, she was a great artist.

You seem devoted to her. Do you feel her spirit is with you?

Yes, I think so because a week ago, I was re-reading all my old memoirs and I said to myself, *Gee, I gave that beautiful top hat away in New York that I used to wear as Marlene*, and I became nostalgic about it.

I thought to myself how great it would be for me to do that look again because nobody's doing it anymore. I took my bike and went for a ride around town and stopped at a thrift shop. Like magic, in the middle of this table, there was this antique black satin top hat, just like the one I used to wear! Thank you Marlene!

What do you think made Marlene great?

Her character and her director, Josef Von Sternberg.

We all need a good director!

Yes, and Josef VonSternberg discovered her too. Marlene was already complete, but Josef Von Sternburg polished her and she became what she was until the end.

Let's find out more about you. What was the scene like when you first came to New York?

I fell in love with New York immediately! I went to Parsons School of Art and then I went to Trapagen School of Fashion Design. Ethel Trapagen was a very old-fashioned grand dame who ran a great school for design. The designer Gallanos graduated from that school. I studied draping and fashion illustration.

Speaking of Gallanos, do you have a favorite designer?

> **"I am busy 24 hours, even when I sleep."**

Gilbert Adrian. I collect his gowns.

Oh yes, from Hollywood's Golden Era. Describe what's special about Adrian.

Everything about Adrian was great! He was glamorous, subtle, dramatic, and every star at MGM was dressed by him. Adrian's style was liquid. His clothes were feminine and elegant, and he was especially known for his evening wear. The rich, movie-star look was started by Adrian.

Are you still involved with theater and fashion?

Haute couture. I am busy 24 hours, even when I sleep.

Do you wish you could get away from design and do performance only?

No. I have always had two careers. My fashion designing is very important to me. I just finished cushions for director Tim Burton. You know what? I'm not regretting anything, but I was spoiled in New York where I had a patron.

You mean a sugar daddy?

Well everybody said he was a sugar daddy, but he was more than that. He didn't just pay the rent and help me with money. I was his protégée.

That's a very nice situation.

I also had a job on 7th Avenue working with Pauline Trejere, the famous designer and I did theater with Charles Ludlam. Everyone screamed because of my costumes and my gaiety.

Tell us about shows you wrote for yourself.

My first play was *Shanghai Loca*. I wrote it in New York and performed it at the 13th Street Playhouse. It was about the Norma Desmond character from *Sunset Boulevard* getting out of jail and starting a new life. I had rave reviews in *After Dark* magazine! New York was the best place to be in the 1960s and 1970s.

And now you're in Los Angeles.

I'm in Hollywood because of my friends Scott Whitman and Mark Shaiman. Scott directed most of my shows in New York. Scott Whitman now does a show for Patti LuPone, and his friend Mark Sheaman is also very famous for scoring films.

Tell us about working with the legendary John Sex. You must have a good John Sex story.

PETER PALADINO

He was the sweetest most beautiful boy. I was working at La Cage Aux Folles in New York, and one night John and I went down to a dive on 3rd Avenue. There I was, all glamorous in a veil and hat. Somebody said something nasty. I don't remember what it was and I don't even think I even heard it, but Johnny did. He took his fist and punched this man in the face. He broke his wrist defending me. What a hero! Later I began creating all of John Sex's costumes. He had great ideas, and we worked well together.

Is there something about Alexis Del Lago that we don't know?

If you don't ask, I'm not going to tell! Like Mae West said, "My life is an open book, I'm just looking for somebody to read it."

Alexis continues to pursue her cabaret act and at press time is opening at Arbucle's Night Club in Los Angeles.

PAM TEFLON CAN'T CONTAIN HERSELF!

Pam Teflon is the flamboyant female alter ego created by actor Jeff Sumner. She's also one of one of the top (and certainly one of the most notorious) Tupperware Senior Executive Managers in the United States, and from what Jeff tells us, sales are anything but a drag!

Pam's work has been recognized in Great Britain, Germany, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and Belize. Her Tupperware "events" are attended by hundreds of people in California and loved by all types of people: men, women, straight, gay, black, white...etc. She has appeared in all types of media. Some television appearances include: Caryl and Marilyn, Crook and Chase, The Pat Bullard Show, Talk Soup, *and* TBS Dinner and A Movie *to name a few. Her creation was chronichled in the acclaimed one-person show,* **My Life In Plastic**.

BY JEFF SUMNER

When DRAGAZINE asked if I would like to set the record straight, I jumped at the chance! Both Pam and I have been misquoted and misunderstood so many times over. So I thought, perhaps I would interview Pam myself and see what she had to say. But first, let me tell you how it started.

This whole thing began as a need for the perfect survival job. I am an actor and a writer who lives in Los Angeles. As anyone who has ever seriously attempted to pursue a television and film career will attest to, finding the perfect job between acting gigs is often just as difficult as landing your own sitcom. So after several years of struggling in L.A., with some success from my critically acclaimed one-man show, ***The Eccentric Buffet***, I once again found myself scraping pennies together to get a Happy Meal at the McDonald's drive-thru.

Then, my friend, Andy, attended a Tupperware party and told me of the great money-making opportunity he heard about from the Tupperware lady. I figured "what the hell!" At this point I had done about every stupid survival job imaginable from doing market research for baby diapers to making cappuccino for celebrities. So I went to a sales meeting and discovered 300 women singing songs and screaming over the famous plastic products. I knew I had to give it a try.

After doing several parties as myself, I started to once again become painfully aware that I wasn't working as an actor. One day, I was talking to my mother who suggested that I sell Tupperware as Joan Crawford. (Apparently she had recently seen Mommie Dearest and thought that the sight of me flailing plastic while screaming, "No Rubbermaid EVER!!!" would be a good selling point.) But after talking to Andy once again, I decided to use my comedic acting skills

and create the character of a mid-western Tupperware lady that would be the ultimate selling machine. I had no idea it would come to this.

I sometimes crack myself up when I observe my bombastic, bosomy alter ego, Pam Teflon. She's the Super Tupperware Consultant of the Universe, and yet she still has time for her two teenagers, Alan and Sue, and her out of work, algebra-teacher-of-a-husband, Marvin. She drives a 1997 Dodge Caravan — tax, license and insurance paid for by Tupperware. She's also known to erotically caress a "Thatsa Bowl" from time to time.

Here I am, enveloped in Pam's larger than life, hyperthyroidic personality. Large animated eyes surrounded by hummingbird-sized lashes that provided a gentle breeze with each blink. Red, bee-stung lips that ensnare a hypnotic mouth, seducing both men and women to reach for their check books and credit cards. The image isn't complete without Pam's pink suit, glistening in the moonlight, Tupperware key chains dancing across her left breast below her executive manager name tag. Pam always brings up the whooshing sound that Tupperware makes when you close the lid properly.

"I see," said the Tupperware lady as she glided across the room on black suede stilettos in a poof of shellacked blondness. "We're just going to have to burp your seal."

And of course, her gorgeous, alluring gams!

•••

Jeff: Pam. What's your secret?

Pam: A lot of energy, a whole lotta love, and hair-spray fumes.

Isn't it true that in the late 70s you checked into the Betty Ford Center for a hairspray fume addiction?

Honestly sweetie! What is this? The *Barbara Walters Special*? So help me...if I start to cry...I'm going to have to bitch slap you.

Sorry. Obviously I hit a nerve.

That's alright. I refer to that as my "Aqua Net Spiral." The wound is just still too fresh.

Well speaking of fresh, let's talk Tupperware. How did you get started?

Well you see, I come from a long line of Tupperware ladies and home economists. When I first got married I started my own Tupperware business to help pay the bills. Then I stopped to raise my kids. But when Marvin became disabled because of a chalk accident, I knew I had to take action. So I phoned my local Tupperware lady, Mildred Lipshitz and said, "Re-sign me up Millie! I got a family to feed!"

Didn't you also have an affair with Elvis?

My you do your homework! Well let me set the record straight. No. I did not shtoop Elvis Presley. He did however stop by my Tupperware booth at the Moline Illinois County Fair where I sold him a "Fresh 'N Fancy" Container for his ham addiction. I hate to say it but I'm partially responsible for creating the "Fat Elvis." It's a very sad story.

What are some of your favorite products?

Well Tupperware is *not* about burpin' bowls anymore, sweetie. I personally love many of the Tupper gadgets. And we're so versatile! Like the high-capacity press chamber in the garlic press is also perfect for cracking my husband's nuts. And our bullet-proof microwave products make excellent safety-deposit boxes.

"I come from a long line of Tupperware Ladies and home economists."

What are some of the highlights from your current Tupperware demonstration?

Well you know it's constantly evolving.

Like your hair.

No darling. That's been the same since I was a little girl in Moline. Besides, it doubles as a "Flavor-Saver." Currently in my demos, I'm doing a spoof of the television show *E.R.* featuring our refrigerator line. It's all about reviving carrots. And of course my salute to *Charlie's Angels* is a big hit. I was up for the role of Jill Munroe, 'ya know.

So what's coming up for Pam?

Well, I'm on my way to Denver for a big Tupperware Convention. Oh, that reminds me. I gotta get to KMart to pick up a few more Jacqueline Smith's. And I'm currently in development for several T.V. projects and a book deal.

Well it's time for us to become one once again. Any last words or advice to those people with dreams of their own?

Patience is a virtue. Virtue is a grace. Grace is a little girl...with dirt on her face.

What does that mean?

How the hell should I know? But it sure sounds good, doesn't it?

Getting Saucy With the Linguine Sisters

The Linguine Sisters — Fabulosa and Anxiosa, bill themselves as the darlings of the New York Club Scene and party circuit. They are foreign-born cinema divas, frozen in time in the fashionable past. They contacted DRAGAZINE *to dispell any anomalies that pop up in their genetic makeup and to promote the opening of their new 15-minute homage to spaghetti cinema,* ***Gladiator Queens of Rome.***

RITA BARROS

Fabulosa: Hello DRAGAZINE! We're here to promote our first joint-venture film in several years, ***Gladiator Queens of Rome***. It's a joint Spaghetti/Film Noir production directed by Antonioni Ravioli.

Anxiosa: You might remember how he directed me so masterfully in *Powder Puff BLOW UP at Bloomingdale's.* I am forever so indebted to Antonioni. It was the first time in film history that the main character's nail polish matched the set design in such a way that it reflected our incredible sense of postwar desolation and spiritual upheaval. DRAGAZINE's kinkier readers might have also seen Miss Fabulosa in Antonioni's *Biker Chicks of the French Revolution,* which was followed in quick succession by *Accessorized Ennui in the RED DESERT*. I don't think any of the others are out on video yet.

F: Antonioni Ravioli has been my favorite director too. In his film *La Regina dell' Opera, or Opera Queen.* I play a woman torn between the world of music and the world of glamour. So many dresses, so many men, so many jewels! But my biggest commercial success was in *Il Ritorno della Regina,* translated as *The Return of the Queen*, It's all about the posthumous life of Marie Antoinette. She returns after being guillotined. Headless, she wanders the streets of Paris trying to help her poor desperate people by giving them jewelry. It was beautiful! And now we're co-starring in ***Gladiator Queens of Rome***. It's been years since we've done a film together. I play Mammaria Amazonia, Co-Queen of Rome.

A: And I play Bitchella Crudella, the other Co-Queen of Rome. And by the way, if DRAGAZINE's readers know anyone in the American Press, please tell them that it is an absolute lie that I fell in love with the actor who played my slave Erectus Enormus. Can you imagine? Me with a two-bit player!

F: In his case, one bit.

A: Pardon, sorella?

F: And our Home Office requested that we ask DRAGAZINE's readers to demand the ***Gladiator Queens of Rome*** *Official Coloring Book* by name at their favorite newsstands and bookstores.

A: Our publicist tells us that our fans will most likely find it at their favorite Gay bookstores in particular. It turns out that we have a lot of Gay fans.

F: But darling, after they've seen us, everyone is gay! We make them so happy! We laugh, we sing, we tell funny stories...

A: No Losa, I think he's referring to the rumor that we are both men! Can you imagine!? Just because we are both strong, independent women! Yes, dear of course! We are both men! I will give DRAGAZINE's readers a personal panty check if you like! But seriously, we feel honored that people, Gay or otherwise, like us. We were told that as glamorous European divas, a large percentage of our worshipers would be homosexuals — how you say? Gay? That is so quaint, and why not?! We have many fans that worship us as much for our fashion sense and cunning minds as for our sumptuous Rubenesque figures. But we are always surprised at how many of our fans are women and how many are married men. It seems everyone wants to get a good close look at The Linguine Sisters.

F: Sometimes too close. *Manaccia*, but I still have fingerprints on me from our last appearance!

A: I broke a fingernail at that one too. We had to cancel many performance dates until it grew back. But enough of that! We want to mention our new joint project.

F&A(in unison): *La Fondazione Linguine Primavera*!

A: *The Foundation for the Assistance of the Distastefully Dressed*. We are so excited about it! We've opened a makeover clinic in Nice. We're supporting research in a very important laboratory in Milano that is attempting to discover if we inherit or learn bad accessorizing. Then there is our *Costume Jewelry Institute* in Venice which

makes copies of all of our own fabulous jewels, and we're about to start a *How To Wear Leather* institute in Rio de Janeiro.

F: Of course, we were both blessed with extreme natural beauty. We are very fortunate. We suggest that the vast majority of women who are not so good-looking contact professional help to improve upon their natural assets. Even the most unfortunate among us can improve her shortcomings with some eyeliner, lipstick and judicious padding. And there is always vino. Darling! It's not for you, it's for him! Apply it into your man and you will look better with every swallow!

A: As always, my sister is very knowledgeable in improving her shortcomings, I mean her beauty. But my darling sorella left out one important ingredient — food. The easiest way to a man's heart is through his stomach, girls. Lips can be used for many more things than kissing.

F: You should know, dear!

A: Darling? Speaking of food, there's nothing like a good plate of linguine for the shortest route to a man's heart. And not just because we receive a kickback from the Linguine Lobby either. I have two favorite sauces, both inspired by our middle names. Mine is Pomodora Pelata, and Losa's is Puttanesca.

F: People always want to know our secret of how to tell when pasta is done.

F&A: When the cook says, "Dinner is served."

F: Well, I see we've used up our column inches. In closing, the Linguine Sisters plan to continue to spread glamour and good accessorizing sense throughout the world. I believe that someday, when everyone is well-dressed and fashionable, hatred and jealousy will cease. There will be world peace through good taste and *haute couture*.

A: We are constantly trying to raise funds for our charity as we travel the world with our nightclub act. As a part of that, I am always trying to further perfect my mambo step.

F: We both believe in giving everyone respect and acceptance.

A: Diamonds are nice too.

To contact the sensational Linguine Sisters — namely Fabulosa, the raven-haired Italian beauty, or Anxiosa, the red-haired green-eyed Breton woman of mystery — for bookings or more information, please call their exclusive North American managing agents, Anthony Bellov and Laurence Frommer at 212-675-6964.

Carmella Marcella Wants You!

A visit to Florida wouldn't be complete without dropping in on the Grand Ole Gal of the South, Orlando's **Carmella Marcella Garcia**. She's the show director at a club called **Southern Nights** where hecklers best not get caught in her crosshairs. Carmella's actually the salty larger-than-life alter ego of male entertainer George Timothy Reed. The *Biggun* is always in demand for a pageant, party or show. She sings live, lip-synchs, tells dirty jokes and will bring a house to their feet with a foot-stomping rendition of The Auctioneer Song, or Honky Tonk Angels. But she's also a threat to *waller* all day in the pool, or put her toes up into some country cookin'. Mella is mother hen to several Drag daughters. Nefertinya, Tori Holden and Fanci honored Mella with a party called *All My Children* on Mother's Day. Victoria "Pork Chop" Parker, another Drag daughter, was first runner-up in the Miss Continental Plus contest recently. Carmella has more than a decade of experience, has traveled to 35 states and visited at least 150 cities, and still has the drive to "be on it." It's no wonder that most Queens seeking an edge look to Carmella for advice since she's a former Miss U.S. at Large. "Remember one of Drag's most important lessons," advises Mella with tongue in cheek, "Cover Girl does not always cover boy!" Mella is the first to admit that "it's hard to compete against those [preoperative] transies. Fanci, one of Mella's Drag daughters, has a different reason for Mella's success. During a recent send-off roast, she observed, "I've learned so much from Mella, however, what's been important has been his friendship." If you skinny girls think Mella won't give you a run for the crown, think again. She's got the confidence and poise to compete head-to-head with those anorexic so-called beauty queens in "booger row" to grab for that title too. "Thin may be in, but fat is where it's at!" hails Carmella as fellow fatty Sierrah Foxx won the title of Miss Southern Nights.

Family and friends help to make it all happen. George Timothy is devoted to the most influential person in his life, his mom Patsy. It's evident down to his eyebrow arch matching hers. Daily conversations with Patsy make sure the family is okay back in Brownsville. Patsy is the first one to get to the club, enjoy a Long Island Iced Tea, and watch her son perform. She's been known to do a hairdo or two for Denise Russell (formerly of Cowboys LaCage). As churchgoing as this lady is, she's not one to condemn Mella's friends or lifestyle. She loves him because Tim is her son and "there's no getting around that." So the next time you're down South, bring your blue plastic Candie's or bristly chin in to **Southern Nights** and introduce yourself to Carmella Marcella Garcia. Go ahead, we dare you!

Media Notes

Continued from page 5

ing! A full lead story on the **Battle for the Tiara** graced the cover of the "straight" rag ***The New Times,*** while ***The Advocate*** proclaimed Gays and Lesbians should ultimately be considered "transgendered." **Liz Smith** pined "please, no Drag scenes, okay?" to HBO's announcement of the new **J. Edgar Hoover** biopic they were working on.

MUSIC

Both **Diana Ross** and **Gloria Estefan** shot music videos filled with Drag Queens, then ***Dance Music Authority Magazine*** featured Drag Queens on their cover from the Ross shoot. Rock & roller **Leslie Rankine**, who fronts for a band called ***Ruby***, posed provocatively in the ***L.A. Times,*** proclaiming her indifference to gender roles, and **RuPaul** released his/her newest CD ***Foxy Lady*** to rave club reviews.

PERFORMANCE

Tommy Femia did **Judy Garland** at the **Cinegrill,** while Circus act **Ariana, The Human Arrow,** was rumored to be a Drag Queen. The appearance of **Holly Woodlawn** in **BIG Video's** ***Beverly Hills Hustler*** and **Moist Towlette** in Catalina's ***The Hills Have Bi's*** earned them ***Adult Video News*** magazine's nominations for Best Performance in a Non-Sexual Role. Drag *King* **Shelly Mars** toured Germany, while **Miss Georgia, Christy Anity, a/k/a James Gray** won **Battle for the Tiara 1997**. **Musty Chiffon** performed at the **Cinegrill**, while Drag-based **La Gran Scena Opera Company** celebrated its **Gala Fifteenth Anniversary**. Finally, **Misty Cologne** starred in her own ***Coming Up For Air*** at **Glaxa**. There was Drag Queen Lap Dancing offered at New York's **Angels Late Night Theater**, while Atlanta lost Drag entertainer **Amber Richards** before her time.

CHARITY EVENTS

Al Roberts and **Ken Jillson** coordinated another annual Drag **Splash**, their-fund-raising soiré, while L.A.'s annual **Red Dress Party** became a charitable event for the first time. **The Battle for the Tiara** filled the 1200-seat **Wilshire Ebell** for the second year in a row without skipping a beat. They raked in over $70,000 this year and promped plans to move to a more roomy room for next year's battle.

ADVERTISING

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals used Drag Queens to fight fur in high fashion, while the **Clothestime** ad campaign featuring a Drag Queen didn't seem to slow down their bankruptcy. **The "Lady" Bunny** appeared in **Naya Spring Water** ads, while **RuPaul** was traded in for **k.d. Lang** as spokesmodel for **MAC** cosmetics.

ET CETERA

I ran into former **Mapplethorpe** model **Constance**, working as the maitre d' at **Bar Marmont** while there to enjoy **Holly Woodlawn** and **Alexis Del Lago** reviving their stage acts. Chicago Bulls' **Dennis Rodman** made personal appearances in major Drag which earned him a position on **Mr. Blackwell's** worst-dressed list. **The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc.** opened branch in Los Angeles, while **Fox** axed a Drag pilot based on the New York stage show ***The Honeysuckles.***

THE FUTURE

And finally, 1997 got off to a rocky Drag start with cancellation of any future airings of a transgender-themed **Superbowl** commercial. Complaints were reportedly received over a **Holiday Inn** resorts advertisement. A classmate at a school reunion recognizes a female attendee by calling her **Bob**. The caption went, "Isn't it amazing what a few thousand dollars can do." Lighten up, Holiday Inn! That was funny! Until next time, see you on the Boulevard, Girlene!

SUDDEN FEAR

Drag Queens love glamour, and Joan Crawford remains one of the most glamourous screen stars ever produced during the golden age of Hollywood's studio system. New York's Kino On Video distributors celebrated that Joan Crawford/Drag Queen connection when they held a Joan Crawford look-alike contest at The Duplex cabaret in Greenwich Village. The contest coincided with their release to the home video market of Joan's 1952 classic ***Sudden Fear***.

The contest took place in January of 1996 at The Duplex, which also cosponsored the event. The Duplex is home to many of New York's most celebrated drag performers and gender illusionists. Contestants competed in the categories of appearance, attitude, and of course, eyebrows, and entrants needed to be prepared to quote at least one memorable line from a Crawford film. Eight Joans wowed the packed house with classic moments from Crawford's film career — and her private life.

Philomena, the Empress of the Imperial Court of New York, won the $100 grand prize with her glamorous interpretation of the Crystal Allen role in ***The Women***. The audience roared approvingly when she took the stage as the gold-digging shopgirl and said in disgust, "Can you imagine? He almost stood me up for his wife!"

First runner-up was a ***Mommie Dearest*** look-alike in a white-satin evening gown. Tieing for second runner ups were a double of the schizophrenic nurse in ***Possessed*** and a Mildred Pierce look alike (as portrayed by the contest's sole female entrant). Other contestants paid homage to Joan's roles in ***Queen Bee, Rain,*** and ***Torch Song***. Runners-up received a set of padded satin coat hangers, and Bette Davis impersonators were not admitted.

Sudden Fear is a fantastic film noir made in high-Hollywood style. It is a suspense thriller packed with spine-tingling moments and gorgeous black and white cinematography. The role of Myra Hudson shows off the full array of Miss Crawford's emotional range, and there's a musical score that races toward its jolting climax. Besides the fact that the film received four Academy Award nominations, including Best Actress for Miss Crawford, it's just a thrill to see Joan go through 15 costume changes!

Get ***Sudden Fear*** at your local video store or contact Kino Video at 800-562-3330, and tell them you saw it in DRAGAZINE!

LOONIES

Continued from page 7

side in the air and rise up to her one toe and turn all the way around, whipping. Men never tried to do that until the last few years, but it's very difficult and it will never look as graceful as when a woman does it. Another reason a woman is able to dance on her toes is because her body is simply lighter than a man's.

A typical evening with the Loonies would include a lineup of numbers, intermission and a finale. One of our favorite numbers is our version of "The Dying Swan". Everybody's heard of "The Dying Swan" basically. The title says it all. A swan is gonna die. It's how she dies that's funny. Originally, the ballet was created as a solo piece for a ballerina famous in the 19th century named Anna Pavlova. In the 19th century, swans were very big. You were either a princess, a swan, a spirit, or you were something dead. Anna found the music by Camille Saint-Saens, and Michel Fokine was the choreographer of the day. He choreographed it as a solo for her about a swan who dies. In the original, she was just a swan at the end of her life. An old, fading swan. In my version she's shot. First, she get's dragged out onto the stage in a net, powdering herself. There's powder everywhere as she gets pulled across the stage. Then she steps out of her net and turns to face the audience. She has this gigantic egg that she's been cradling in her arms which she simply throws into the wings. Then, she does her little death dance. Next, she molts thousands of feathers, and finally at the high point of the music, she gets shot. We hear a rifle shot in the music that I inserted into the tape. The audience never expects it. It's so hilarious when she hits the deck and gags and quivers from the shot. She finally ends it laying on her back with her feet in the air and her arms crossed like in a coffin.

We also do more contemporary numbers. The "Squares Dance" was a parody on George Balanchine's ballet which was called "Square Dance". It was based on patterns used in real square dancing, but the music is Vivaldi. So when I did it, I took a different piece of Vivaldi music than they used and included jokes on the original. In the final movement, there's an authentic square-dance with real square dance music and a caller who comes out on stage and calls the moves.

In the segment we call "Tutti Frutti", we offer our tribute to Josephine Baker, Esther Williams, Shirley Temple, Carmen Miranda and Lucy and Ricky. We've chosen figures from Hollywood legend for their individual artistic and flamboyant styles. They're larger than life characters. The only one who I would say wasn't larger than life was Esther Williams, but we chose her because we had a funny idea for a swimming section about a ballerina who plays Esther Williams who is costumed in an actual swimming pool. She actually wears a little plastic wading pool for her tutu. Speaking of costumes and headpieces, I must mention the contribution made to our success by the outrageous and creative talents of our costumers. I got really pissed when one critic said, "Oh, the numbers weren't authentic". It showed what a stupid idiot he was because they were thoroughly researched. Our Josephine comes out doing a slinky dance with these four grass-skirted and pineapple-breasted native women. Josephine wears a costume from one of her movies where she was in a birdcage.

Then, there's our version of "The Dragonfly". It was also an Anna Pavlova solo ballet. She choreographed herself for that one. We recreated it to be very funny. Our Dragonfly, a shimmering vision, flits and floats annoyingly around the stage. There's a pool that she jumps into and plays with the water. During her play, she's spotted by a butterfly catcher. This guy goes around with a net, and he sees her and tries to catch her. He chases her around the stage, and in the end, he swats her with a giant fly-swatter.

Finally, there's "Salome's Last Prance". A Babylonian Bimbo, a king, a queen and a flying head. What else could an audience wish for? And just to keep people interested during intermission, we supply printed programs with hilarious "biographies" of the dancers. There's even some extra names in there of people that aren't really even in the show.

There are many more numbers we're known for that I haven't mentioned, but you'll just have to come and see the show for yourself. Please visit our Web Page to check out our schedule of performances at *nephties@ix.netcom.com*, or call us at 212-279-5169. We are currently New York-based but hope to do extensive touring in the future.

Seeing a man in a dress has become old hat. You can look out your window and see a man with a beard in a full-length evening gown, slinging a mink over his shoulder. Our show is more than men in dresses, or women in pants for that matter. It is my hope that the work holds up no matter who performs it. If the artist, male or female, has a great personality and a sense of fun and timing, the dance will come off.

Of course there are far too many people to thank than the space alloted here, but I must mention the dancers themselves, our lighting technician, the stage manager, our costumers (again) and the generous donations we've received from the public.

More than anything, the Loonies aim to entertain. If you leave our show feeling good, we have achieved our goals.

Photos Timothy White

CLASSIFIEDS

EDUCATION
MISS VERA'S FINISHING SCHOOL For Boys Who Want to Be Girls — No Matter what kind of man you are, we can make you a better girl 212-242-6449

CLUBS
FINNOCHIOS —- A San Francisco Institution! Impersonators in comedy, song and dance reviews! 415-982-9388

DRAGSTRIP 66 — L.A.'s premiere monthly Drag dance party where you get in for less if you dress a mess! Hotline 213-969-2596

THE QUEEN MARY — A Southern California institution! Bring the family! Reviews, lip-synch, and don't forget the back bar — very popular! 818-506-5620

HOUSE OF WHACKS — You must comply with strict dress code to attend private themed parties. Leather, latex, Drag, cool fun! Call 312-761-6969

MAIL ORDER
THE CHARLES PIERCE SHOW — The World's Foremost Female Impressionist - Hilarious impressions of Bette Davis and more! $29.95 to Phyllis Sues, Inc., 1456 Bellfast, Los Angeles, CA 90069

SUGAR AND SPICE — A mixed bag about transvestites, transsexuals, Drag Queens and L.A.'s early Drag days. Send $25 to Larry Wessel, P.O. Box 1611, Manhattan Beach, CA 90267-1611

FABULOUS VIDEOS — *Straight Dope on Hormones, Basic Makeup Application, Ladylike Deportment.* $40 each. To order or for further information on other titles, write to C.D.S., P.O. Box 61263D, King of Prussia, PA 19406

DRAG GAGS & DRAG GAGS RETURNS — Classic Drag movie stills matched with tickle-your-funny-bone punch lines. Send $11 per edition to Ralph Judd, 1330 Bush Street, #1J, San Francisco, CA 94109. 415-441-5377

WILD ABOUT MAKEUP — From the classic to avant-garde, tips, anecdotes, historical facts, trend forecasting and more. Send $24.95 to TM Products, P.O. Box 33, 15445 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

MONSTER — Wholesale Bulk quantities of eyelashes, lipstick, stockings, neat stuff! 3141 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90039. Call 213-666-7071 or 800-DUMBKID

WOLFE VIDEO — Mail-order house with Queen's corner includes *Priscilla, Wigstock, To Wong Foo, La Cage Aux Folles, Just Like A Woman* - all at the best prices! 800-438-9653

CANDY CRAMER, Direct from the birthplace of John Waters! For her latest CD, send $8 to Cramer Productions, 1710 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217

MAGAZINES
CROSSDRESSERS INT'L SHOPPING GUIDE —- Clothing, shoes, lingerie, swimwear, articles on fashion. Free price list! JMPG, P.O. Box 7217, Burbank, CA 91510-7217

CROSS-TALK — Letters, news, commentary, advice, humor, reviews, events calendar — written and published by members of the community! Send $5 for the current issue to P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills, CA 91365

TRANSFORMATION — Send $2 to get on our mailing list! Videos, magazines, clothing, shoes, breast enlargement devices, wigs, cosmetics! P.O. Box 459, Orange, CA 92666

CHRYSALIS QUARTERLY — At last! A magazine about gender dysphoria for caregivers & consumers! $36 for one year. Send to AEGIS, P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724

TV-TS CONFIDENTIAL — For the Gendered Person. 12 issues for $36 or $4 for a single copy. Send to Abby M. Greene, P.O. Box 621, West Franklin, NH 03235

PERFORMERS
DRAGON TALENT AGENCY — When not just any Drag Queen will do! Contact Robin Cameltoe at 213-669-1272

CC RAE — Individual performer featuring comedy lip-synching, impressions, broad humor. For info, write to P.O. Box 161, Green Bay, WI 54305. 414-435-6763

CAMP MARY-MAKERS — Ensemble group, comedy, show tunes. Call Bron at 818-700-1664 or write to 10125 De Soto Ave., #35, Chatsworth, CA 91311

JIM BAILEY — Barbra, Judy, many more incredible impressions! Call Steve at 310-271-1975 for itinerary

THE WEST HOLLYWOOD CHEERLEADERS — Outrageous cheer leading group 310-652-5077

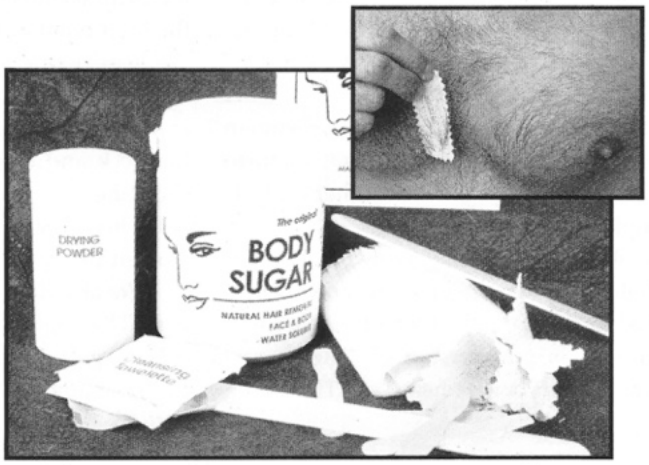
SOCIAL CLUBS
THE IMPERIAL COURT OF NEW YORK — Raises funds for Gay & Lesbian Community & social service organizations. Organizes cornations, theater parties, fund-raisers. Call 212-924-4766

THE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE — A religious order of male nuns who do charity work and hand out condoms. Call Sister Justina Nickatime or Sister Seeme Feelme Touchme at the new Los Angeles chapter. Phone 818-545-4468

EVENTS
THE BATTLE FOR THE TIARA — Every September for the annual Los Angeles charity "beauty" pageant spoofing Miss America. Audience Drag acceptable, but the show is on the stage and contestants are preselected. Contact Alexis after July at 310-659-3482

THE RED DRESS PARTY — In October for the annual Los Angeles charity Drag ball. You must attend in a red dress. Not pink, not fucshia, not orange. Red. Contact AID for AIDS special events line at 213-656-6085

THE ALL-NEW PURE & NATURAL WAY TO REMOVE UNWANTED FACIAL & BODY HAIR.



BODY SUGAR HAIR REMOVAL SYSTEM is the more effective alternative to waxing hair removal products. Waxing breaks the hair just below the skin's surface, thus, making the hair grow back thicker and longer. **BODY SUGAR** removes the hair at the root, and if it grows back, it will be finer and shorter. In fact, if you remove the hair with **BODY SUGAR** every 2 months for 14 months, the hair will stop growing back. (This is an estimate and it may take less time for some and longer for others.)

Made from sugar and lemon juice, **BODY SUGAR** uses no smelly chemicals, no messy wax and no painful electric shock. All you do is warm it up, smooth it on, and peel it off! **BODY SUGAR** goes on like a liquid and pulls off easily with a cotton strip removing the hair and its root resulting in a less painful, more complete removal. **BODY SUGAR** is safe to use on the most intimate areas of the body, and BODY SUGAR is also a great exfoliant because it removes dead skin cells which clog your pores, leaving your skin soft, smooth and rejuvenated.

Catalog X is the first catalog company to offer this fine, 100% natural **BODY SUGAR KIT** for use in the privacy of your own home for only $24.95, which includes a 12 oz. jar of **BODY SUGAR**, cotton removal strips, skin cleansers, drying powder, large and small applicators, and complete instructions. Use **BODY SUGAR** alone or with a friend.

Body Sugar Kit #6193A $24.95
Body Sugar Sampler Kit #6193B $5.95

CATALOG X

NIGHT OF 1000 GOWNS — (April) and the Imperial Court New York Queens shine! Open to the public to attend in formal Drag. Write to 101 West 12th St., #9W, New York, NY 10011 212-807-8767

SOUTHERN COMFORT — One of the Gender Community's premiere events serving the entire spectrum of MtF, FtM, TG, TV, CD, DQ, TS, straight, gay, bi and friends, family and loved ones. Write to P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357-1591, or call 404-633-6470

WIGSTOCK — The "Lady" Bunny hops you can make it. The public is welcome to come in Drag on Labor Day, New York. Warning: 10th anniversary was cancelled!

SHOPS
CIRCUS OF BOOKS — 8230 Santa Monica Blvd, LA, CA 90046 213-656-6533 *http://www.circbooks.com*

THE THING SHOP - 811 Monmouth St, Newport, KY 41071. 606-431-4469

PEIDMONT BOUTIQUE — 1452 Haight, San Francisco, CA 94117. 415-864-8075

PLAYS
ON THE PURPLE CIRCUIT — Newsletter of Gay and transgendered plays. $20 for one year subscription. Write to 2025 Griffith Park Blvd., #4, Los Angeles, CA 90039, or call the Hotline 213-666-0693

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN DRAGAZINE!

Hello, Wig World, do you deliver?

I'm watching the TV Shopping Channel.

I'm afraid my bikini wearing days are over.

Lose the miniskirt and push-up bra,
we've been invited to a conservative affair.

CIRCUS of BOOKS

Magazines & Books for All Interests
Video Rentals & Sales

TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU:

8230 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90046
(213) 656-6533

4001 Sunset Blvd.
Silverlake, CA 90029
(213) 666-1304

http://www.circbooks.com

Sascha Sequins & Renda LaRue

SUGAR

TRY THIS AT HOME!

Smart Set Gives Fabulous Drag Parties Right In Their Living Rooms!

BY SUGAR

Crystal DeCanter

Wanda Lust

Martha Zvinyard & Pagan Holiday

Sugar Shack started around the end of 1995, when my best friend Steven (a/k/a Pepper Parmesian), who lives Back East, and his boyfriend were here visiting for the holidays. They had heard about the monthly Drag party in town called Dragstrip 66 and had always wanted to go. I decided to have a Drag New Year's Party while they visited to make up for them missing the Dragstrip that happened just before they came to town. I invited some friends over and we performed in the living room of my one-bedroom apartment. I live in Beachwood Canyon, an area that is situated right under the Hollywood sign. It's all very romantic. If we needed to commit suicide that night, we knew we had a place to jump off of.

Since the beginning, Sugar Shacks have been happening about every three months or so. We started with a core group of ten friends who performed mostly for each other that first night. Sugar Shack is basically just all my talented friends getting together to be pretty and put on a show. I became Sugar, the Drag hostess. I like to think of Sugar Shack as an old style salon, except we're not reading poetry, we're lip-synching in Drag. My particular group of friends just seems to be good at it.

Eventually, our friends invited their friends, and then they invited their friends. We soon needed to rent spaces, charge a cover to pay for the rent and offer a no-host bar to pay for the drinks. Performers have never gotten paid, but besides rent, we have had to pay for set decorations, a sound tech and a lighting tech. Any extra money goes towards expenses on the next space and any money after that to a charity we all agree upon. We had over 150 people show up at the last place, and although I didn't know most of them, I still had fun backstage. But I do miss the days when I knew everyone.

I think it's so funny that these Sugar Shack parties are named after me since I was initially reluctant to do Drag around the time it was catching on in town. I was the last of the crowd. The first time I did Drag, I surprised everybody when I showed up at Dragstrip. Dragstrip is the club held on the second Saturday of each month over at Rudolpho's in Silverlake. A lot of my friends have been dressing up in Drag once a month for fun since it began in 1993. I finally came in a fabulous outfit from one of the costume houses in town. I'm a costumer, so I have a lot of access to stuff at work. Plus, if I need to rent things, I just rent them for my job. Some of the shows that I've worked on have included *Roseanne*, *Ellen*, *Clueless* and *All American Girl*.

The first Sugar Shack was all lyp-synch, and it's the performing part I hate the most! I did one song and then a duet. On one of the songs, I forgot the words, so I performed it but I kept a fan in front of my mouth. It was like a Sally Rand fan, very large. The audience loved it because they thought I had planned to end the number that way, so it got an

RUSH

even greater laugh that I could have ever planned!

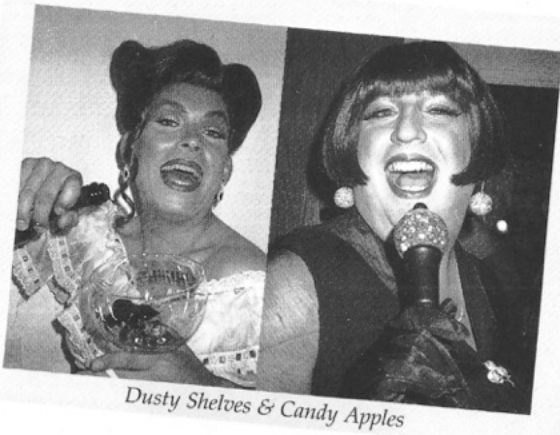
Because Sugar is into comfort, I always seem to end up wearing my early 70s sparkling platform espadrilles. They're probably about four inches high. They're known as NBW's in the business – *Never Been Worn*. My friend Kitten Kaboodle got them for me. Actually, I stole them from Kitten Kaboodle, to be honest. That's what happens in Drag. Don't ever loan Drag out, 'cause you'll never get it back. I wore them one night, and two years later, I'm still wearing them. Sugar needs to be comfortable in her shoes. She doesn't wear pumps. Whatever I have to wear must be in my comfort zone. I do have some Mary Janes for when I do Barbra Streisand though.

There have been a few performers who only last one show, and then there have been others that make guest appearances every so often. I hope I can remember all the names! Of course there's Lois Commondenominator from DRAGAZINE. She plays her own keyboards, tells dirty limericks and sings live! There's Crystal DeCanter who is so talented in makeup and makes her own clothes. She's like a 50s Delores Grey. Crystal likes to be pretty and glamorous, at least she thinks she is. She's more like some 1950s murderess. We have Kitten Kaboodle who is always everybody's favorite. She's the star. And her husband/wife Ida Wanna. She does the Betty Hutton material, and this is a 6'1" burly man. She looks 16 years old and 100 pounds when she's lip-synching. We have Wanda Lust whose lover Mark is a great costumer so she gets the deluxe outfits. He loves to perform and is very dramatic. Audrey Quest is quite original and has had some of the greatest gimmicks in her act. At one of the more recent Shacks, she performed "Spring in Paris" and used props such as a rubber skillet and hand puppets coming out of her purse — so I would say she turned pro that night without warning. Amanda Reconwith is a professional dancer so he's very body conscious. He wear's very sexy clothes. Attitude for days. Pagan Holiday was in semiretirement, so her brother Roman Holiday showed up last time. There's Dusty Shelves, who is new to the group. When I first met him at Dragstrip 66, I just came up to him and told him I wanted to meet Lee Grant. Then there's her cohort, Candy Apples. There's Sascha Sequins who does a great Eartha Kitt. Nobody looks more like Eartha than Sascha does. Sascha always comes with her boyfriend Renda LaRue. Of course we have our fabulous hostess Misty Cologne who also goes by the name of Martha Zvinyard. And we've had Miss Yvonne, our only real girl, to co-host in the past. It works because everybody has some talent.

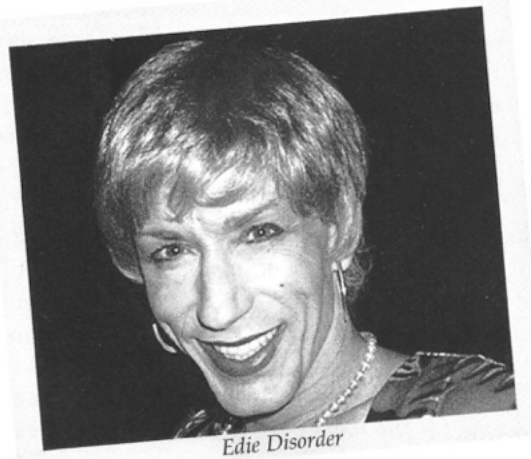
The only advice I can give about putting on a Sugar Shack is to practice lip-synching by playing the damn song over and over and over and over. A lot of the other girls rehearse for days and weeks. I have such stage fright, but even I'll admit it's gotten easier over time.

I think in this day and age, Drag is so fun, if you have any inkling to do Drag or if you're worried that people will reject you once you're in Drag, you couldn't be in any better a disguise. You can be anything you want to be in Drag, including "The Third Sex." Drag parties are totally fun and harmless. Nothing makes me smile and laugh more.

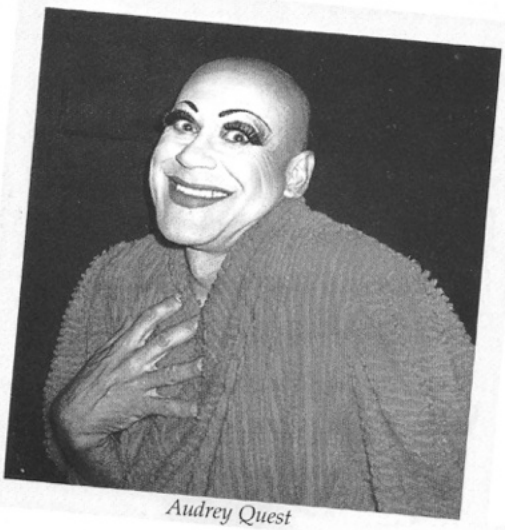
One thing I loved about Sugar Shack when it was at my home was that I didn't have to carry a purse. I'd like to do a few more Shacks at home again for old time's sake and 'cause I can never find the right bag that goes with what I really want to wear!



Dusty Shelves & Candy Apples



Edie Disorder



Audrey Quest

Pepper Parmesian & Dina Louise

How To Win At "The Battle For The Tiara" Beauty Pageant

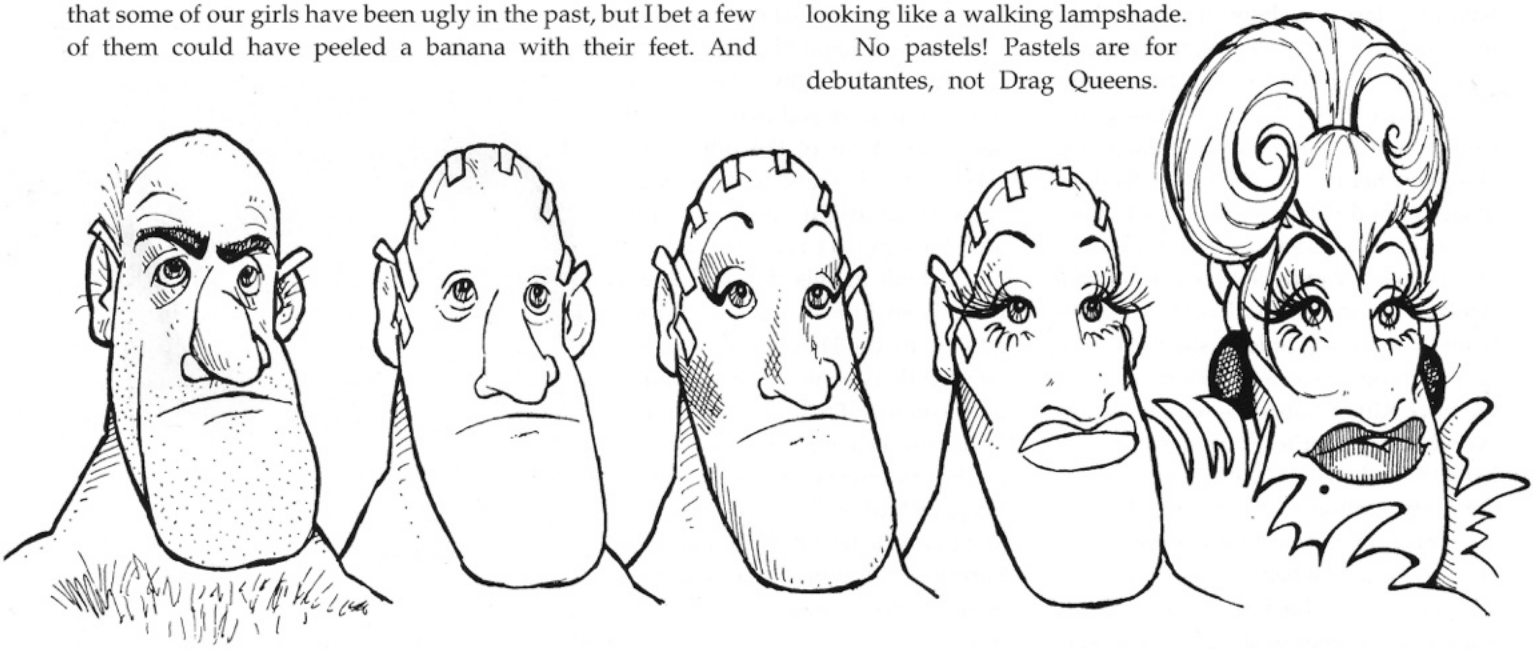
What's Beauty Got To Do With It?

BY ALEXIS PITTMAN & PATRICK RUSH
ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAGAN HOLIDAY

Hello, I'm Alexis Pittman, also known as Lily White. As one of the founders and organizers of the annual charity extravaganza **Battle for the Tiara**, I have become somewhat of a pro at pageantry Drag. For years I have coached many a girl and slung them out for numerous shopping sprees. I know that every detail counts: from heels, gown, makeup and talent, to wigs, jewelry, strategic padding and a good lighting crew. Let's face it girls, a large bankroll or rich boyfriend wouldn't hurt either.

DRAGAZINE asked me to give advice on how to win at beauty pageants, but I've got my most recent experience with the **Battle for the Tiara** which isn't a real beauty pageant. You don't really have to be beautiful to win it. Now I'm not saying that some of our girls have been ugly in the past, but I bet a few of them could have peeled a banana with their feet. And I'm the first to say that a number of our girls have had perfect faces — for radio. You don't have to be popular to win either. I know of at least one person our girls didn't know — Jenny Craig, but I bet they knew the Colonel!

So for those of you contemplating that competition Drag adventure, I am here to give you a few pointers on the do's and don'ts of Drag glamour the **Battle for the Tiara** way.



THE GOWN

Being on stage is all about projection and glitter. Remember the *Three G's* for making a dramatic entrance - *Glitter*, *Glamour*, and a *Good Hot Glue Gun*. You simply cannot get enough sequins on a dress — it's impossible! Even so, spending $10 on an ugly dress and putting $20 worth of rhinestones on it will result in something similar to putting makeup on a gorilla!

Feathers, tulle or chiffon are always good options to soften those truck-driver shoulders. I also recommend strapless and sleeveless gowns for men, especially if you've seen a few french fries in your day.

Beware of vintange clothing stores. *Vintage* means just that — old. You do not want people to think Betsy Ross sewed your dress.

Be careful of skirts too full or too stiff. You could end up looking like a walking lampshade.

No pastels! Pastels are for debutantes, not Drag Queens. Most people will just think the dress has faded over the years.

HEELS

Every inch of heel takes off ten pounds, while being on camera adds ten pounds. Just remember, five-inch heels are for serious pros, and one camera at a time.

MAKEUP

Don't forget the *Three Ls*: *Lips*, *Liner* and *Lashes*. Always use liner on your lower eyelids too. A good rule of thumb is if you

can't see the makeup from ten feet, you're not done yet.

If a makeup artist even mentions the word *natural*, run! Throw the red lipstick on and give up those natural shades like pecan and toast. Trendy nude lipsticks are going to look like just that — you forgot to put some on.

If foundation comes off on your collar, more powder will fix it, unless you're using some cheap-ass makeup.

Beware of a Queen who too eagerly volunteers to do you makeup. Chances are she will look flawless and you will look hideous.

YEARS OF OLD, CAKED-ON EYELASH GLUE AND MASCARA DOUBLES NICELY AS LINER.

I don't know why every Queen thinks she should buy Cameo, which is the lightest shade of foundation.

HAIR

Long hair works on a girl who's 18. As you get older, you need to go higher. You want to make sure that all the action is at the eyes and above.

The bigger, taller or wider the hair, the thinner the shoulders look.

Do not use your own hair. Even your best friend won't tell you the truth about this, but I will.

TALENT

The whole secret of talent is that you don't need any, as long as you have a gimmick. And the more gimmicks you can throw in the better. At the same time, less is more. I've seen a seven-minute talent that should have been over after three.

If you plan on lip-synching, make sure you know the words, or stick to opera. Nobody knows opera so no one will know if you've messed up. If you happen to be a Black girl, do not assume that you look like Diana Ross, or that the audience wants to hear another Diana Ross number even if you do.

MISCELLANEOUS

If the last time you did a sit-up was when you were reaching for a piece of pizza, do all of us a favor and don't wear a bikini.

Earrings should always be bigger than your nose. Leave the pearls home. This is a Drag show, not a cotillion. Do wear foundation garments and keep Fredrick's of Hollywood in business.

Do wear sheer-to-the-waist pantyhose with a bathing suit, otherwise you're opening yourself up for a major reading.

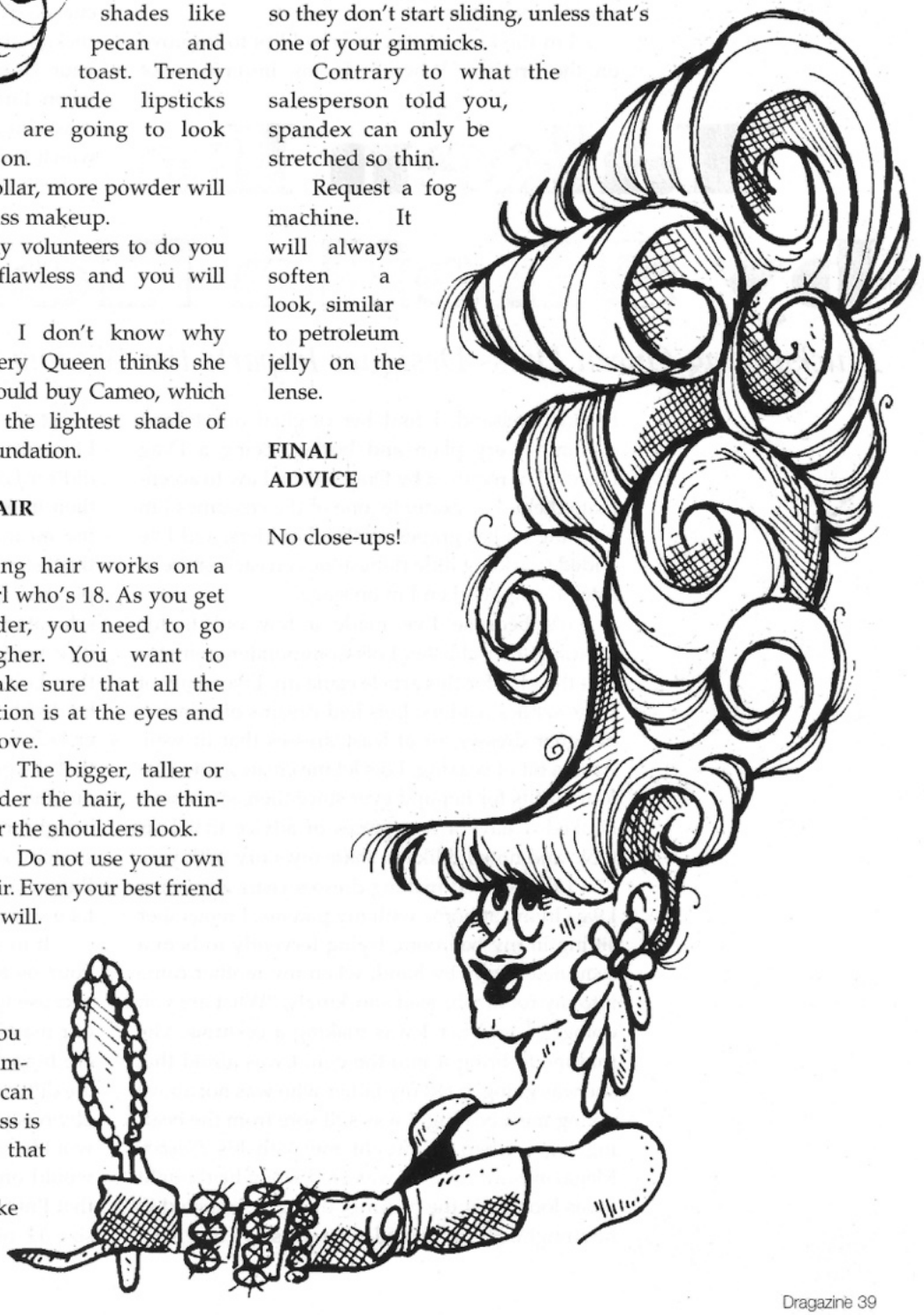
Remember, the bigger the tits, the smaller the waist will appear. Just secure them well so they don't start sliding, unless that's one of your gimmicks.

Contrary to what the salesperson told you, spandex can only be stretched so thin.

Request a fog machine. It will always soften a look, similar to petroleum jelly on the lense.

FINAL ADVICE

No close-ups!



Taken In

by Sheila Noiya

Plucky Drag Queen Dress Designer Imparts the Wisdom of the Bobbin

At about 13 or 14 years old, I started dressing up in my mother's clothes. At 18, I began entertaining professionally at clubs in Detroit, Flint and Chicago. I was pretty in Drag and I discovered I had the talent to be convincing as Barbra, Bette or Liza. In the process, I also found I had the knack to find ball gowns in thrift shops that I could take home to "customize." When I was 20, I entered the Miss Gay Michigan Pageant. Imagine my horror when, during the evening gown competition, this other bitch came out in the same off-the-rack designer gown as me! Although my gown was from Hudson's, I was mortified, that is until they announced my name as a finalist and didn't announce hers! Ever since that embarrassing event, I have been designing and making my own costumes.

I'm the kind of Queen who likes to improve on the original. When I do my impression of Barbra Streisand, I find her original outfits and costumes very plain and boring. Being a Drag Queen, I'm required by Drag Queen Law to accentuate them. For example, one of the costumes I'm working on has grapes on the shoulders, and I've added sparkling little rhinestones on each grape to catch the light when I'm on stage.

It's because I've made a few outfits for DRAGAZINE's publisher Lois Commondenominator that the idea for this article came up. Like many of DRAGAZINE's readers, Lois had dreams of wearing designer dresses, or at least dresses that fit well. After a bit of coaxing, Lois let me create a few custom outfits for her and ever since then, she's been hooked. I have a few pieces of advice that Lois took, and now I'd like to share my story with you.

I first started making dresses years ago when I was living at home with my parents. I remember sitting in my bedroom, trying fervently to hem a sequined gown, by hand, when my mother came into my room. She said shockingly, "What are you doing?" I told her I was making a costume. She told me to bring it into the den. I was afraid that she was going to tell my father who was not above giving me a beating. I was still sore from the beating I got when he caught me with his *Playboy* Magazines. At first, he was glad when he thought I was looking at the pictures, thinking I wanted to be straight. He got pissed when he saw I had pasted pictures of my head over the faces of the centerfolds! Years later, I found out that he didn't mind that I was Gay, he just wished I was butch! Anyway, instead of busting me, she whipped out her sewing machine and finished hemming that gown. I thought she was so cool and gave her three more outfits to work on! When she finished basting the lining of the black-velvet cape, she turned to me and said, "Now that you have your own clothes, keep the fuck out of my closet!"

Well, it's been more than 15 years since then, and although I'm not performing professionally as often as I used to, I still enjoy designing gowns for myself for those special occasions. Unless a person is svelt like Drag Superstar Karen Dior (who could look glamorous in a potato sack), or has a small, curvaceous shape and can buy spaghetti-strapped cocktail dresses off-the-rack, it's important to have your Drag made to fit right. Let's face it, even when I'm doing Camp Drag and allowing my muscular back and bulging biceps to hang out — which I enjoy doing at Dragstrip 66 every month — I still want to be admired!

For the true first-timer who doesn't even know how or want to learn how to sew, my sincerest advice would be to call my partner John and I because we'll make you fabulous outfits like we did for Lois! If coming in to see us is not possible, then make a mental note for future reference. In the meantime, I hereby allow you to shop at a thrift store. It's the easiest thing to do for most people and it's how I started too. Find some old schmata rag of a dress and try it on before you buy it! If you're afraid to try something on in a store, then Lois says she can tell if a garment will fit her by dividing her waist size by two to get the proper lady's size. For Lois, her 36-inch waist means that she probably can wear a lady's size 18. It turns out that she needed a size 20 in the patterns we bought for her outfits, but that's not to say that a stretchy size 18 wouldn't fit her on a good night. Buying a large size makes it easier for someone to take something in rather than let it out.

It may be easier to buy a dress than to make your own dress, but it's still a hard thing to do because women's clothes are not constructed with our masculine physiques in mind. Women's hips are bigger, their waists are smaller, the armholes are different, their arms are shorter, their chests are obviously different, and even a full-length gown wouldn't necessarily hit the floor on a man as it would on a woman. I'm fortunate in this area in that I'm 5'6" in height, so a floor-length gown in a size 12 off the rack would actually come to the

floor on me. If somebody's 5'8" with heels on, they're going to have a problem. That's why mother nature made ostrich feathers, to trim the bottom of Drag Queens' dresses!

After the thrift shop, I suggest heading to a bead store to glam up anything you've bought. All you need are some beads and some glue. There's special kinds of glue that's specially made for fixing jewels onto fabric, even stretch fabrics like spandex and latex. It would be best to sew them on, and anybody that can thread a needle can sew a bead onto a neckline. The dress that my friend Maxxi Padd, who I love very much, gave me is a plain white dress, and it definitely is screaming Jewel Me! I haven't figured out what color beads I want to add yet, but I'm leaning towards silver because I have these fabulous silver shoes that I can't wait to wear! This brings up two other Drag Queen Laws: More Is Not Enough and Bigger is Better! If 100 rhinestones look good on a dress, 200 will look better. If two pair of eyelashes look fine, three pairs will be flawless!

"That's why Mother Nature made ostrich feathers — to trim the bottom of Drag Queens' dresses!"

If you have a sense of adventure and you want to try to sew, one of the easiest things to attempt would be to buy a dress and cannibalize it. Buy a thrift shop prom dress that has a pretty skirt made out of chiffon, tulle or some other fabric or pattern you like. Then, go to the fabric store and buy fabulous brocaded, beaded or jeweled fabric and make a new top for it. The top portion of a dress is called the *bodice*. Sewing has all types of special terms like that, and I promise not to get into many more of them here!

One of the things about designing and making your own clothes is that you learn how and where to take in the waist and let out the top. If I follow a store-bought pattern, a normal woman my size would have a 36- to 38-inch chest, including her bust. I already have that size chest without the breasts, so I have to make the top larger to allow for the falsies to fit in.

Speaking of falsies, I want to explain how I make them using birdseed. First, take a pair of pantyhose and cut the panty portion off the top so that the two legs are left over. This also works with the knee-high-style hose. Next, take a measuring cup because it's very important that both falsies are the exact same size. If you're really anal retentive, you can count every seed to make sure you have the same amount in each one, but I'm not that anal. Measure a half a cup of birdseed and pour it into the pantyhose leg. Make sure it's pushed all the way down to the bottom, then tie a knot at the top of the compacted seed tightly. Next, fold the rest of the leg inside out and over the bottom, then tie two tight knots, then cut it short at the tip. By making two knots, you create the nipple, and when they're held up inside a thin bra they look real!

For some clients, I like to make dresses with patterns that allow overexaggerated shoulder padding. That hides the fact that as a man, you've already got broader shoulders than most women. Speaking of patterns, Vogue is my favorite pattern maker. I would avoid McCalls and the others because their styles are for frumpy housewives, unless that's what you want to look like. I have been known to mix patterns to get the look I want. There's nothing wrong with changing patterns. I changed a scoop neck and made it a straight line across recently to update a style.

Although there are fabric and hobby stores near where I live, I like to shop in the Downtown Garment District of Los Angeles because the prices and selection of raw materials are much better than in the suburbs. Michael Levine's on Maple Avenue is one of the fabric stores I frequent in Downtown L.A. because it has the best selection of notions, patterns and tons of fabrics in all different styles, textures, materials and prices. Another one of my favorite sources Downtown is a store called Moscatel's on San Julian. It's an arts and crafts type store that carries lots of flowers, baskets, plastic fruits, feathers and such.

I must admit that it's helpful to get to know someone in the fashion or costuming industry if you're going to get into serious dressmaking. You can sometimes get their cast-offs, so hang around those wardrobe mistresses and see what they're willing to scam for you! That brings me to my friend John who works full time in the local studio wardrobe industry. After hours he's also my business partner in our dress making venture, Guys Will Be Dolls. John works with me to help design gowns for all our sisters! Sometimes having John for a friend backfires on me. He once gave me this wonderful piece of sapphire-blue satin for free, thinking he was doing me a favor. Instead, I went out and spent $45 on beads! I called him the next day and I said to him, "Don't give me any more fabric! Just give me the goddamn beads and I'll go Downtown and buy six yards of fabric for 99 cents a yard and make a dress to go with the beads!"

One piece of advice I'd like to give is: Buy the shoes first! I made a fuchsia gown which is absolutely gorgeous and flawless. The bodice is Italian silk with bugle beads and sequins all hand sewn. The bodice is very small because the fabric was so expensive that I could only afford a quarter yard. The skirt portion is dupioni silk. Then, I spent hours and hours running around trying to find a pair of shoes to match. Fortunately, I had enough fabric left over of the dupioni and the beads to apply them to a $9.99 pair of shoes.

And that's another thing! Shoes are a part of something important called *accessories*. Accessories are crucial! You can have the most fabulous gown, but if you don't have shoes, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, the right scarf, handbag, fan, hat or coat to match, then you may as well be wearing a potato sack! A black, silver or gold dress is very basic so accessories would be much easier to match. But if you're set on a special-color dress, be aware of the problem of accessories!

My final advice to DRAGAZINE's readers is to find the most buck ugly group of Drag Queens and hang around with them! Besides the fact that I think there's safety in numbers, I've always felt that I'd rather not be surrounded by prettier Drag Queens if I had the choice! It's just like when I go to the beach. I tan very easily, so I always go with these pale blonds to make me look more tan.

If sewing "darts" or shopping in thrift stores is not your thing, but you still want to look gorgeous, we know a few "flaw-forgiving" designs that work for me and my sisters! Call us at Guys Will Be Dolls for an appointment at 213-876-4360! We'll dress you to thrill!

Shopping for Drag in L.A.'s Garment District *with Phyllis Dillis*

It was a gorgeous Saturday in L.A.. Lois Commondenominator and I agreed to spend the day Drag shopping. We started our adventure around 10:30 a.m. with a pit stop at Loehman's Discount Outlet on Third Street. I'm sure the local Queens have found this place out because it was pretty picked over for that time of day. They had bargains and a selection, but nothing very colorful and screaming Drag Queen! Too much sportswear and summery dresses. Well, nothing *our* size that *we* liked. Perhaps that's why it's now out of business. On to Downtown!

We fought the 101 Hollywood Freeway going South and got off at 6th Street. We parked on a rooftop at 7th and Los Angeles, then walked to the Cooper Building. It's a tall 1920s building with all types of discounted merchandise inside. It's quite a fun place with little cubbyhole shops everywhere you turn and lots of walking up and down stairwells. We took the elevator up and started on the fourth floor. You go from floor to floor looking around and seeing what's what. Lois made the first purchase of a wide, black belt made out of a stretchy material at one store that sold nothing but leather goods. I got eyelashes at a beauty supply outlet. Two pairs of design #101 for $1.75 a pair, which isn't bad. You can never have enough lashes. Next, I couldn't resist this dress that was just hanging there on a rack in a store that specializes in larger ladies sizes. The store was at the end of the hall off the beaten path. What can I say about that dress? It screamed show business to me! Lois helped me to haggle with the proprietor about the price. That's something you can do downtown, especially if there are flaws in a garment, and this one needed some fixing. Picture this dress; hemmed to the knee, great Dolman sleeves, a crew neck, multi-colored, sequined, with waves, bands or possibly test patterns encircling it like the planet Jupiter. It's a knit which means it will be hot to wear it on stage. I'll be so hot, I'll be radioactive! I'm positive no real woman would have ever worn it at any price really. No wonder it was marked down and down and down. So we offered them $25, tax included, and they bit. I think my neighbor Gutter Pup will fix it for me. She's a sweetheart. It just needs a few nips and tucks. It's a magnificent dress and I just can't wait to wear it!

We left the Cooper Building and walked around to little shops on the streets. There were many signs that said Wholesale Only so we stayed out of those stores, but right beside them were plenty of stores that were open to the public. Jewelry was 50% off and it was already marked down before that! So what was $8 originally was $4, and what was $4 originally was $2! Next, we went to The Alley. If you like crowds, you're going to love The Alley. It's a real alley running between buildings. Downtown L.A. has a lot of immigrants, especially Spanish-speaking people, but everyone was friendly and could speak English to us.

Walking along, there were also hundreds of little stores open to the outdoors with racks and racks of clothing in front of them. Lois found some sheer black-light-weight evening pajama pants with rhinestones embedded in them for $10. They looked very elegant yet they were so reasonable. Our other find of the day was fishnet stockings, cheap! Three pair for $6.

There were a lot of little dresses using cheap-looking florescent neon colors with bright flowers. I liked those chilly pepper dresses we saw. The young girls were flocking to those racks! It was all retro-sixties. There were a lot of ugly, clunky shoes, but they didn't have our sizes. And there were lots of designer knock-offs, but don't tell. You could get Chanel, but I think they spelled it Shannel. Just don't look too close. We saw some Guess stuff, or perhaps it was Guess Again. I guess it was too expensive either way for my tastes. There were some pretty handbags. Lois needs a handbag that she can put her camera in when she's out and about in the clubs. Lois is a sensible kind of gal, yet fashionable. I just need my ID and a little lipstick.

Our feet were starting to fall off, so we decided to head back to the car. Lois had to enter one more store, so we stopped at Mr. Kim's Jewelry Store on our way. So many earrings and necklaces and bracelets for next to nothing! Both of us got these cocktail rings for $1. They looked like moondrops circa 1967. Mr. Kim told me that I could come back as Phyllis and tape my cable show in their store, so that was cool. Although it took me all day to find a bargain ring for one dollar, it was worth it just to experience the thrill of spending a dollar for something fun. It's amazing what that does for you. Friends will scream!

Mr. Kim's also sold opera-length gloves and I bought a pair at the end of the day for four bucks! This shop also had rings with glitter-filled ornaments that looked like some egg an outer-space alien would have layed. They also came in a knob-shaped variety, like a bathroom drawer knob. The salesman said they made good weapons for fighting. You could punch somebody in the face with that protrusion. Quite dangerous actually. That's me — Phyllis wears Danger Wear!

All over downtown, the jewelry stores also featured these trendy little chincy, thin Y-shaped necklaces that are so expensive. Some of them had Austrian crystal in them. Austrian chips if you ask me. They're probably made with chips from an old windowpane that somebody happened to sit on in Austria. They're the smallest little dainty nothing chains. If you sneezed they would break. They had a nice filigree design on them, but they were so itsy-bitsy, which is so anti-Drag. Lois and I both agreed that we are like crows. We like shiny things. We swoop in on shiny things. And the gaudier the better! We want to catch light and make it cry uncle before we let it go.

I think I'll wait for a special occasion to wear my new dress. Perhaps the opening of my new T.V. show. I don't know what to call it yet, but I'm open to suggestions. Lois suggested *Phunning Around with Phyllis*. I'm still open to suggestions. Anyway, thanks for shopping with us! See you in The Alley!

pulling off WIGSTOCK WEST

SISTER ROMA, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE ROME

THE DATE: 5/25/96
THE PLACE: SAN FRANCISCO
THE WIGS: HUGE
THE TALENT: PHENOMENAL
THE CROWD: 3,000+ & OVERFLOWING WITH BEAUTY
THE MOOD: GIDDY
THE BENEFICIARIES: THE STOP AIDS PROJECT
THE TENDERLOIN AIDS RESOURCE CENTER

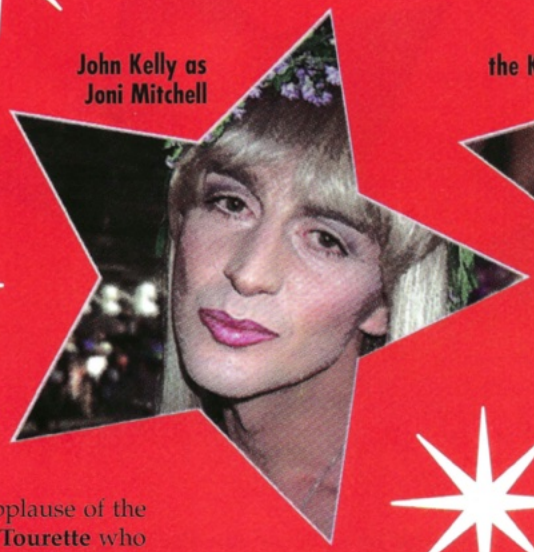
Ladies and gentlemen, put your opera-length gloved hands together for **The "Lady" Bunny, Robert Martin, Eric Wallner, Tom Lindsay, Nancy Kravitz** and the entire cast and crew of promoters, technicians, stage managers, volunteers and sponsors of *Wigstock West!!*

The evening exemplified the love, creativity, talent and whimsy that makes our community what it is — *magical!*

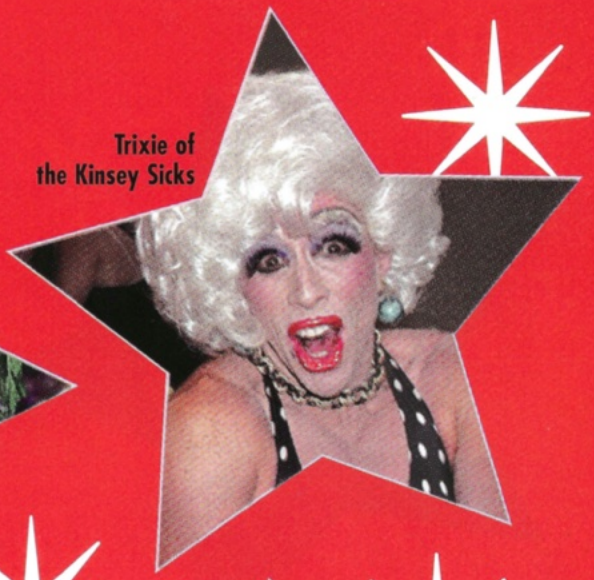
Emcees for the evening were Wigstock creator and head spokesmodel, **The "Lady" Bunny**, smart and savvy **Joan Jett Blakk**, charming and gifted **Arturo Galster** as **Patsy Kline**, and the King of Drag, **Elvis Herselvis**. Who could ask for a better lineup?

New York Drag legend **Girlina** — one over-the-top, pony-tail-to-the-butt, skirt-to-the-nut diva — worked the Fort Mason piers into a frenzy! The crowd wildly approved of the many other New York performers, especially Wonder Woman **Mona Foote**, pretty and passing **Candis Cayne**, **John Kelly** as **Dagmar Onassis** as *Joni Mitchell*, and SF Trannie-plant, **Justin Bond**. Other performers of note included **Chrystallah**, **Lurline**, **Sick and Twisted Players**, **Miss Ann Drogynous** as *Barbra Streisand*, **Ebony Jett**, **BJ King**, **Veronica Klaus**, **Linda Simpson**, **Air Male Trapeze**, **Connie Champagne**, **Miss X**, **Kinsey Sicks**, **Viktoria La Voovah**, **Timmy Spence**, **Vaginal Davis**, **Varla Jean Mermon**, **Carol Doda**, **Dueling Bankheads**, **Enrique**, **Leigh Crow** and **Annie Toone**.

Rachel of the Kinsey Sicks



John Kelly as Joni Mitchell



Trixie of the Kinsey Sicks

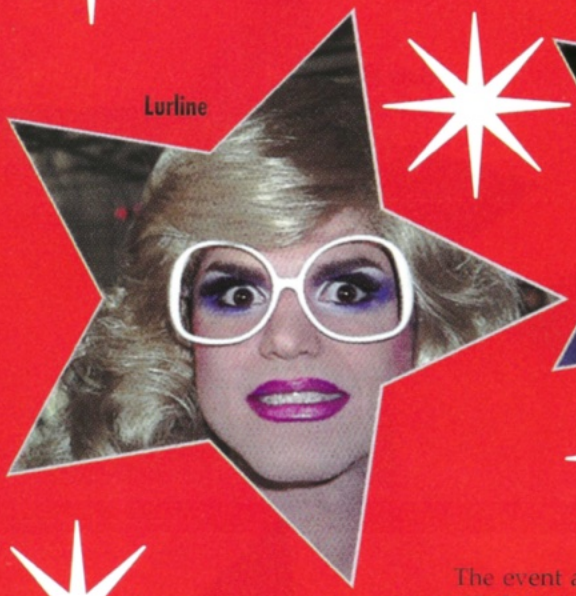
However, the most thunderous applause of the evening went out to headliner **Pussy Tourette** who performed her hit *French Bitch*. SF Empress **Cocketelia** gave a performance fit for a Queen. Forever **Glamamore**, rambunctious **Juanita More** and coquettish **Staci Gives** of the **Fish Stix** served up a steamy boy bouillabaisse á la **Chandler** of the Sea. Other local notables on stage were bigger-than-life **Ethel Merman (Mark Sergeant)**, amazing **Matthew Martin**, and my **Sinful Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc.** Among the big wigs mingling backstage were MAC Cosmetics Magician **Gregory** from Los Angeles, **Lois Commondenominator** of DRAGAZINE, **Madeline**, **Heklina**, **Wenda Watch**, **Shrimp Creole**, **Scorchy**, **Suki**, **Patty O'Furniture**, **Shante Bouvier**, **Chocolate**, **Lu Read**, **Marina**, **Alexis Miranda**, **Lycra Sheen**, **Emma Peel**, **Co Co Sweet**, **Billy DeHerrera**, **Ruby Toosday**, **Jade**, **Honey Money**, **Tawdry Meadows**, photographer **Rick Castro** and **Gypsy**.

Arturo Galster as Patsy Kline

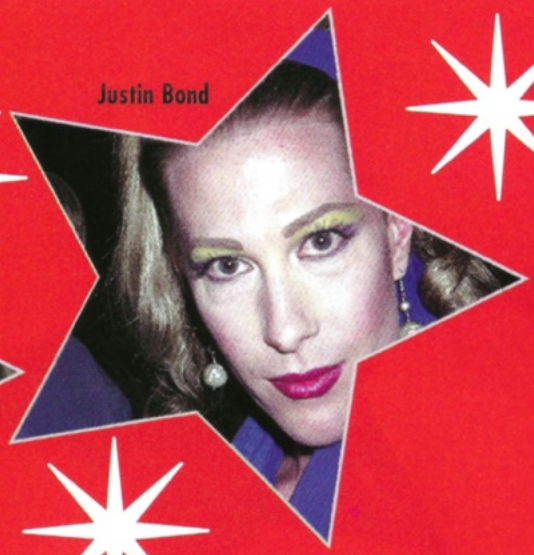
Mona Foote

The Dueling Bankheads

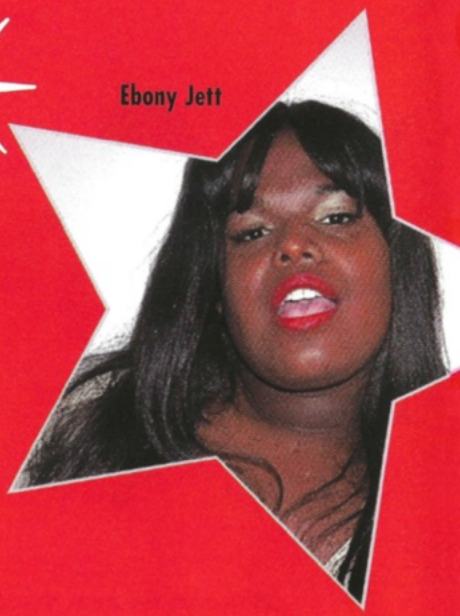
Matthew Martin as Bette Davis



Lurline



Justin Bond



Ebony Jett

The event also brought out the 'she' in some of our hunkiest 'he'-men! Did anyone else spot *Undercover*'s sexy **Ken**, *Stop AIDS Project*'s **Patrick**, *Q San Francisco/Falcon* star **Rick Castaneda**, or adorable mix master Deejay **Jamie J**? Looking good, *ladies*!

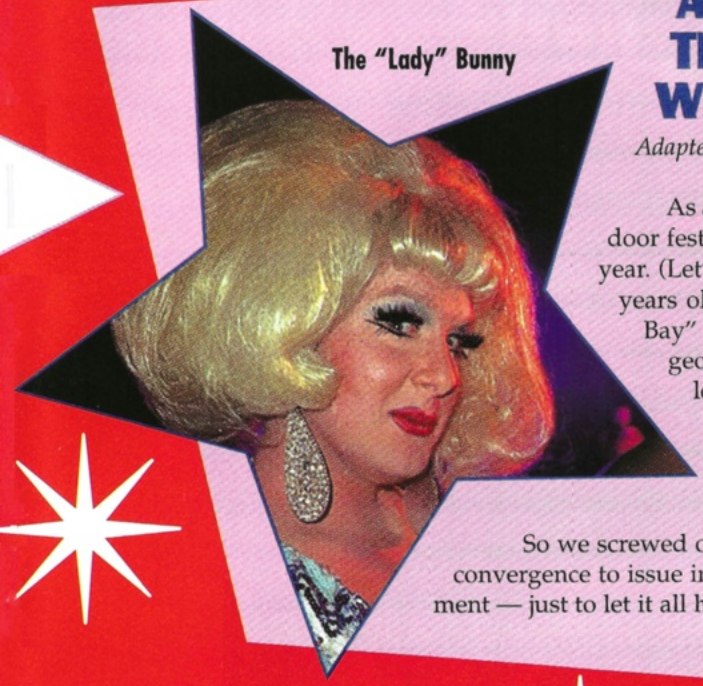
I talked with event producer Robert Martin on the Monday following the event. "We pulled it off!" he said with pride. "I can finally stop for a minute and reflect on what we did. I don't yet know exactly what the proceeds will be, but it all goes to the agencies." I asked Robert if there were any more wigs in stock for SF? "Everyone worked so hard, it would be a shame not to do it again next year. What I'd like to see is the ticket price come down and more people come. We need more corporate sponsorship, like the $15,000 we received from MAC cosmetics. But yes! Wigstock West will happen again!"

— Sister Roma, There's no place like Rome

Candis Cayne

Varla Jean Mermon

Girlina



The "Lady" Bunny

A Wigged-Out Thank You to All of Those Who Attended the Very First Wigstock West!!!

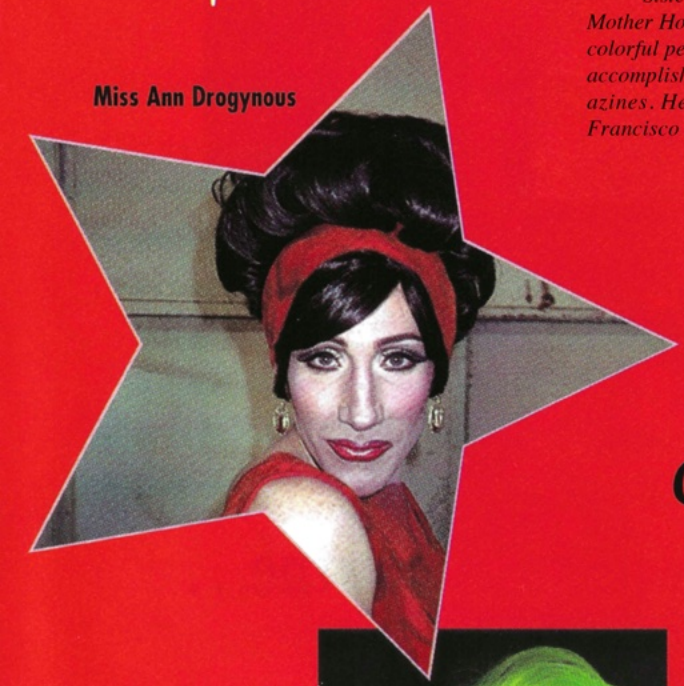
Adapted from the Wigstock West Official Program Booklet

As a little "girl" in Chattanooga, Tennessee, I never dreamed I'd become an outdoor festival organizer when I grew up. But here I am, with Wigstock NY in its 12th year. (Let's see, I'm 22 now... gee I must have started this bitch when I was all of ten years old!) And now we expanded the event to the West Coast. "Baghdad by the Bay" seems a natural choice for our hair-brained histrionics, what with the gorgeous sunny weather, the abundance of dynamic local divas and even a prime location near one of SF's oldest Gay institutions... Alcatraz!

I made plans to bring out a hand-picked handful of New York's most scintillating gender illusionists to round out the bill. Unfortunately, all of the scintillating Queens had to cancel, and so we kinda got stuck with a motley crew of NYC's haggiest heifers. (Just kidding.)

So we screwed on our wigs tight (it was windy by the water!) and unleashed the hormonal convergence to issue in the Age of Asparagus. Honey we weren't there to make no political statement — just to let it all hang out and flip our wigs!

Love & hair-piece,
The "Lady" Bunny



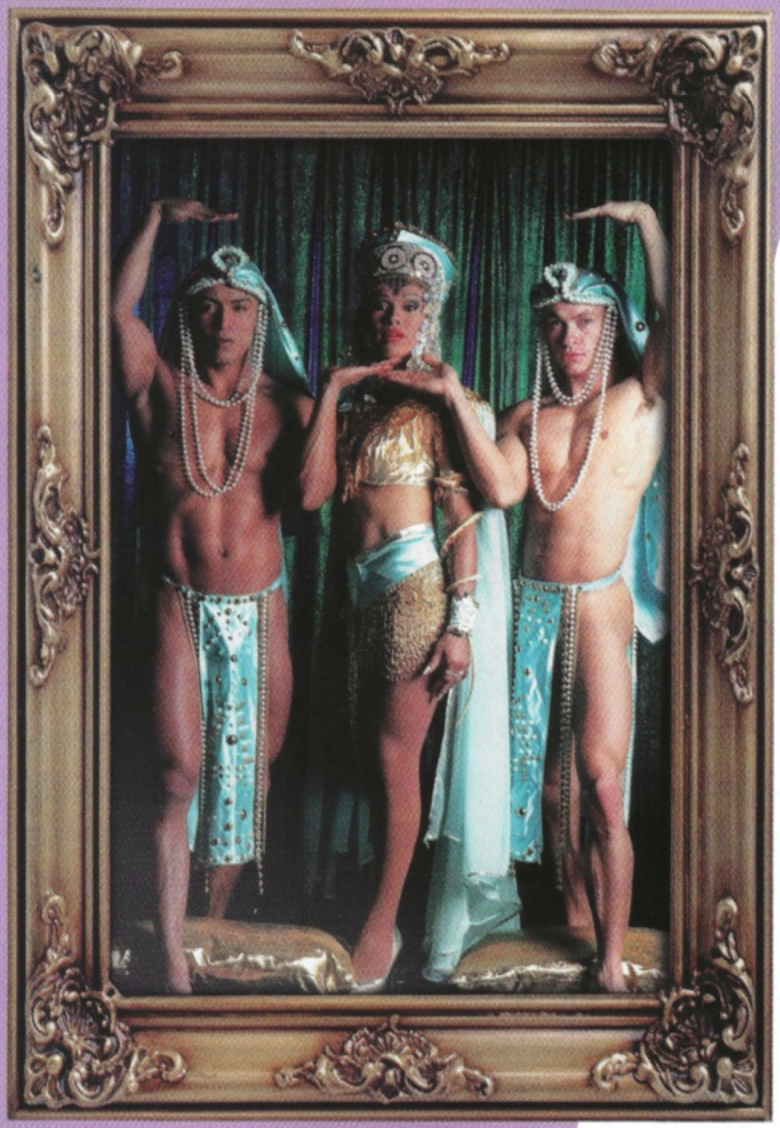
Miss Ann Drogynous

Sister Roma is a member of the unholy order of The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. San Francisco Mother House. In addtion to working to promote human rights and leading the war against AIDS, Roma is a colorful personality who has appeared in movies and on television, including several MTV music videos. An accomplished grapic designer and writer, Sister Roma is one of the creators of Hype and Hype Online magazines. Her monthly column "Hyperbole" can be found in the print version of HYPE around the San Francisco Bay Area and in Hype Online on the World Wide Web at www.hypermedia.com.

Reprinted off the Internet with permission from the premiere issue of Hype Magazine http://www.hypermedia.com

Gentlemen, style your wigs...

Entertainment Options for Every Taste.



Come Taste them All at the...

QUEEN MARY

12449 Ventura Boulevard, Studio City, California
(818) 506-5619
Reservations Recommended